

MPs debate capital punishment

Let terrorists hang - Brittan

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, surprised and upset abolitionists in the House of Commons yesterday by saying that he favoured the restoration of the death penalty for terrorist murders alone while failing, although a lawyer of distinction, to offer any definition of such a category.

Although his general position was known - he voted last year in favour of capital punishment for terrorist murders - his declaration and his reasoning was sharply challenged by Mr Roy Jenkins, a former Home Secretary, and Mr Roy Hattersley, the Labour home affairs spokesman.

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Terrorism was a crime against society as a whole, he said, and it was the State's duty to show its repugnance.

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Mr Roy Hattersley said the IRA would glory in execution. It would be madness to give them such a weapon.

Mr Roy Jenkins pressed Mr Brittan into saying that judges sitting without juries might convict Ulster terrorists of capital murder.

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Four UDR soldiers killed

From Richard Ford Belfast

Four members of the Ulster Defence Regiment were killed in Northern Ireland yesterday when a 500lb landmine blasted their Land-Rover off the road in what was seen as a crude attempt by the Provisional IRA to sway the debate on capital punishment.

Only an hour after the regiment had suffered its worst loss since being founded 13 years ago, the naked bodies of two Roman Catholic men were discovered in a car in South Armagh after what is believed to have been a punishment shooting. Both men had been shot in the head and reports in the border area said that they had been abducted from outside an hotel in the Republic late on Tuesday night.

The sudden upsurge in violence came as Northern Ireland MPs flew to Westminster to vote in the divisions on capital punishment. It was widely seen as a tactic to increase the temperature of the debate, bring more votes in the pro-hanging lobby, giving terrorists a propaganda weapon.

The Provisional IRA attack on the UDR was used as a powerful weapon by Unionist

Photograph, page 2

politicians who denounced the bombing and argued that it favoured the return of the death penalty.

It also increased the pressure on Mr Kenneth Maginnis, a former major in the regiment and now MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone where the attack happened, who is one of only two Official Unionist MPs opposed to capital punishment.

He said that the attack had been timed to coincide with the Commons vote, adding: "The IRA are never short of an excuse to commit an act of terror, but when there is a situation such as this today and the eyes of the world are on Westminster it is obvious that the IRA will attempt to capitalize on it."

The dead soldiers were named as Corporal Thomas Harrow, aged 25, married with one child, from Sion Mills, co Tyrone; Private Oswald Neely, aged 20, married with one child, from Magheramont, co Londonderry; Private Ronald Alexander, aged 19, single, and Private John Roxburgh, aged 18, single, both from Drumquinn, co Tyrone.

They were in the last of a five-vehicle convoy travelling from Omagh to training exercises in co Down when the huge bomb, hidden in a culvert running under a road, exploded near Ballygawley, co Tyrone.

The force of the blast hurled the vehicle off the road and sent mounds of tarmac and earth into fields near by. The Land-Rover burst into flames and

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Tomorrow

Fast...
The Times Guide to the British Grand Prix... and furious
Heated debate is likely over government involvement in schools at the local education authority conference in Canterbury. Lucy Hodges reports.
For richer...
The world's top golfers battle in the Open for a first prize of £40,000. John Hennessy, Peter Ryder and Lewin Mair are there.
For poorer...
Penny Perick meets the Muslim wife who missed out on the alimony millions. She reports in the Friday Page.
Free for all
Pressure is mounting in Uruguay for a democratic constitution. Andrew Thompson reports.

MCC not to tour S Africa

MCC members have voted against sending a cricket team to South Africa. Votes taken at a special general meeting in London last night and added to a postal ballot failed to bring the necessary two-thirds majority.

Hongkong talks to resume

China and Britain wound up two days of talks in Peking yesterday on the future of Hongkong. China said they were "useful and constructive". The talks resume in Peking on July 25. Sir Edward Youde, the Hongkong Governor, is to attend.

Stock Exchange boost, page 19

Cable profits up

Cable and Wireless, privatized in 1981, has reported pretax profits up by 76 per cent to £157m for the year ended March, 1983. Page 19

Drink tax talks

The drinks industry is likely to seek early talks with the Treasury after the European Court of Justice ruling that Britain's level of tax on wine is illegal. Page 3

Moscow link

As doubts gather about Mr Assad's cancelled visit to Moscow, the Russians have been cementing their links with one of the PLO's hard-line groups. Page 5

Health cuts

Health authorities say they will probably have to reduce patient services to meet the deadline for the latest round of spending cuts. Page 2

Chirac protest

At a time of growing racial tension in France, M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist Mayor of Paris, has called for tough new measures to curb the tide of immigrants. Page 7

Cool pitch

With the first Test match between England and New Zealand starting today at the Oval, the covers have been put on the pitch, not to protect it from rain but to keep it cool. Page 23

Leader page, 13

Letters: On divorce, from Dr J. Dominian, and Honour Lyall Wilkes; international debt, from Mr A J Fox; Hermondeuse, from the Astronomer Royal; Leading articles: Falklands; Financial Times; Russian/Japanese talks.

Features, pages 10-12

The Labour Party Eric Heffer would like to see the Government's economic strategy vindicated; woosh hour in the Cromwell Road. The Times Profile: Julian Bream.

Books, page 11

Sir John Plumb reviews Kenneth Rose's biography of George V; Richard Holmes on Cyril Connolly; Harry Keating on crime; Michael Ratcliffe on English stones; Nicholas Shakespeare on fiction; Bevis Hillier on Mrs Oscar Wilde.

Portugal, pages 15-17

How the Soares Government is trying to get to grips with the economic plight.

Obituary, page 14

Mr Ross Macdonald, Mr Seymour Szechter.

Home News, 2-3

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Labour left starts NEC battle by ousting Golding

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A left wing coup which will remove Mr John Golding, an aggressive right winger, from the Labour Party national executive is likely to be the opening shot in a concerted campaign by the left to wrest control of the executive at the party conference in October.

Strategists on the left in the union movement were predicting last night that the balance on the executive, where the centre-right has a comfortable majority, will swing in their favour and thought a 17-10 majority could be in prospect.

They have identified five seats in the trade union section which they believe can be won for the left and are also confident that Mr Albert Booth will beat Mr Eric Varley for the treasurer's seat on the executive. Excluding Mr Michael Foot, Mr Denis Healey and Mr Varley, the centre-right voting strength is about 17-10.

Right wingers were expressing scepticism that there would be a complete turn about in the balance of power but there is a recognition that the left will mount a powerful challenge this year.

Yesterday's decision by the executive of the Post Office Engineering Union to drop Mr Golding, one of its sponsored MPs, as its NEC nominee was not entirely unexpected after the union executive's swing to the left in elections in the spring.

There is an influential Militant Tendency presence in the 14-9 left majority and it was thought that Mr Golding was likely to be one of the first targets of the new regime. The executive said that the decision related solely to the Labour NEC and not his sponsorship as an MP.

"The NEC fully recognizes John's valuable work on behalf of the union as a sponsored MP since his election to Parliament in 1969 and wishes to see him continue that role in the future", a statement said.

Immediately the decision of the post office union became known, the executive of the rival Union of Communication Workers decided to nominate its deputy general secretary, Mr Tony Clarke, for the NEC in Mr Golding's place.

Mr Clarke is on the right of the party and Mr Alan Tuffin, UCUW general secretary, said that a tradition of the two communication unions supporting each other's candidates was now at an end. "I am deeply disappointed with the treatment handed out to John and I think it will be bad news for communication workers as well as the Labour Party," Mr Tuffin said.

He also announced that a consultation exercise among his 180,000 members on the Labour leadership issue had produced an overwhelming

Continued on back page, col 1

Management hopes hinge on TUC

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Management hopes for an end to the dispute which has halted the Financial Times now hinge on TUC action to discipline the union involved.

The company hope that the TUC would be prepared to take strong steps against the National Graphical Association, possibly up to the point of expulsion from the union movement.

It is thought that if the NGA were to be outlawed, other unions would feel able to break the strike.

Meanwhile the company is still hoping that the national leadership of the NGA will order the machine managers back to work, or abandon them and agree to a scheme to produce the paper without them.

Trade unionists felt last night that the schemes had the ring of desperation about them and that the company would eventually be forced to pay the strikers more money.

Leading article, page 13



Lucky escape for Kinnock in M4 crash

Mr Neil Kinnock, favourite to win the leadership of the Labour party, with the wreckage of his car, from which he had a lucky escape yesterday when it went out of control on the M4, hit a bank and turned over (Rupert Morris writes).

Mr Kinnock, who described his

escape as miraculous, suffered minor cuts and bruises, and was at the House of Commons later to take part in the debate on hanging.

He was alone, on the way to his West London home after a party meeting at Barry, south Wales, when he lost control of the new Ford Sierra

near Newbury, Berkshire. He passed a police breath test and said afterwards that he was not overtired and had no idea how the accident happened.

Mr Kinnock, aged 41, climbed out through a window, and was taken home by taxi. His car was described as a write-off.

Continued on back page, col 6

Industrial activity at three-year high

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Industrial activity in Britain is at its highest level for three years, according to official figures issued today. They show that the gradual improvement in the economy is being maintained.

Output rose by 0.5 per cent in May, its best performance since July, 1980. Almost all sectors of industry, including the beleaguered metal manufacturers, are increasing production.

Ministers have little cause for euphoria, however. While the underlying level of output, adjusted for stock changes, was 3.5 per cent above the 1981 trough, production in the country's factories, mines and refineries remains at least 14 per cent below the levels of summer, 1979.

According to figures released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO), production has been increasing since the start of the year, apart from a slight hiccup in March.

In the three months to May,

Propriety rules at Palace

By Alan Hamilton

When meeting one's monarch in conditions of extreme heat, the question is, does one or does one not wear stockings?

Among 8,000 guests at the first Buckingham Palace garden party of the season yesterday who cooked for a chance to glimpse the Royal Family, propriety far outweighed daring.

Stockings blue, white and brown covered the majority of female legs of all ages, but not those of the Princess of Wales. She stepped among the multitude showing bare brown legs beneath her apricot and cream silk two piece outfit, and caused many guests to realize they could have dressed a great deal more coolly without raising so much as an eyebrow.

Dresses on the whole remained decorously up to the neck.

No such sartorial abandonment afflicted the gentlemen guests, who almost to a man braved boiling black tails, waistcoats and topers.

The copious provision of iced-coffee could not entirely assuage the effects of the heat; 12 guests fainted. One lady was borne away on a stretcher bearing a beatific smile as though embarking on her last journey in the prior knowledge that she would arrive at the right destination.

The Queen, in blue-striped cotton and a white hat, and Princess Michael of Kent, entirely in white, showed the expected fortitude in the heat.

But the Queen Mother, being the most experienced celebrity in the world, outshone them all, strolling under a white parasol clad in blue chiffon that billowed like a three masted schooner in the Roaring Forties and created a cooling draught all of its own. That, as they say, is class.

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Europe swelters and the shooting starts

By Our Foreign Staff

Deaths in West Germany and shootings in France have accompanied the heatwave smothering Europe with temperatures well into the nineties.

In the streets of Frankfurt, 10 people have collapsed and died from heatstroke resulting in heart failure, while at Blois, on the Loire in France, a driver protesting at being blocked by two cars shot dead a lorry driver and awakening the dead.

Throughout France the heat point duty stood in basins of water in the road with their trousers rolled up.

On one motorway a huge 190-mile traffic jam built up. "The longest sauna in the world", as a police spokesman called it.

German cities with their liberal laws have allowed mass nudity at beaches and parks, and the popular newspapers are having a field day.

In Sweden, unaccustomed to temperatures in the mere eighties, car accidents and cases of heart failure increased drastically while police believed that a man who leapt from a ferry and drowned was driven by the heat.

By contrast, such temperatures were shrugged off as below

The tropical heatwave

normal in many parts of Spain. LONDON: The hottest place in Britain yesterday was Liphook, Hampshire, with 92F (Our Home Staff writes). London, with the temperature reaching 89F during the afternoon, had its hottest day since 1976. In Cardiff and Southampton it was 91F.

Heat damaged roads, closing the M4 westbound at Brentford and the M40 westbound in Buckinghamshire. The Severn bridge grew a foot in its mile and a half length, its steel heating up to 130F.

Effects of heat, page 3

Basnett hints at TUC talks with Tebbit on political levy

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Trade Unions for a Labour Victory (TULV), which provided £2.5m for Labour to fight the general election campaign, gave the first indication yesterday that the TUC may accept the invitation from Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, to discuss possible legislation on the political levy.

Mr David Basnett, TULV chairman, said: "We decided to assist the TUC in any way we can in discussions with Tebbit on the political levy and we are anxious those discussions should start at the earliest possible moment."

The members of TULV also decided yesterday on a reassessment of their role in the light of the election defeat and, in a separate move, the TUC's influential economic committee called for a comprehensive analysis of policies and their presentation.

Mr Basnett said that all members of TULV were determined to keep the organization in operation but will carry out a reappraisal of their aims and programme during the next five years which is likely to meet union leaders' demands that it become "more inward-looking", concentrating on political activity within unions.

The TUC economic committee's discussion on the TUC's position on the economic accord with the Labour Party after the election defeat was preceded by an unchanged decision to remain part of tripartite discussions with the Government and the CBI within the National Economic

Development Council (NEDC). The committee was empowered to reconsider membership of NEDC by last year's annual TUC conference and, despite some recent statements by left-wing union leaders that the TUC should break off all contacts with the Government, the economic committee did not even have to vote on the issue because there was general agreement.

Among those present were Mr William Keys, general secretary of Sogat '82 and Kenneth Gill, leader of Tass, the white collar section of the engineering union, who at last year's congress proposed and seconded the motion to withdraw from NEDC.

Prime movers of the call for a study of Labour's economic policies and the TUC's position were Mr Basnett, who is also chairman of the economic committee, and Mr Anthony Christopher, general secretary of the tax office staff union.

The study, which will be completed by October, is to centre on three areas: were the policies as presented to the electorate too detailed; how the unions should advance their policies in discussions with the Government; and how they can be better promoted to win approval of union members and the public.

The study by Congress House staff will also examine the role of the TUC's economic review which is produced annually and represents the union movement's assessment of the economy and measures that ought to be taken.

New cuts threaten patient services

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Hospital services for patients are likely to be seriously affected as health authorities search for further cuts in response to the statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer last week.

Many districts are considering reducing wards or beds in acute treatment hospitals to make the quick savings required this year on top of "efficiency savings" already ordered.

Regional health authorities have been told by the Department of Health and Social Security that the cuts of £97m on revenue and £14m on capital will be applied to the preservation of cash differentials. More deprived regions are allowed some growth money, while those judged better off are allowed none.

It is not yet known whether the cuts apply only to this year. Some regions are angry at having to make further reductions four months into the financial year because of over-spending by family practitioner services, which are not subject to cash limits.

The suddenness of the cuts is causing great difficulties. Staff have been hired, medical equipment ordered and building works started, making savings in those areas unlikely before the autumn.

In addition, health authorities are under pressure from the Department of Health and Social Security to improve services for the elderly and

mentally ill, which have been neglected in many areas for years.

Mr Alisdair Liddell, administrator of Hammersmith and Fulham district health authority, said the new cuts came on top of a £700,000 reduction this year and again next year.

"We are going to have to embark on an even tougher programme of measures, but frankly we are 'scratching our heads'," he said. "We are now getting to the point where the whole organization is creaking. Against this kind of deadline, we have to go for savings that can be achieved quickly and that means patient services."

The authority would have to consider closing wards, discharging patients more quickly, and stopping the use of agency nurses and locums when staff were away. That could complicate the present moves by the DHSS to reduce junior doctors' hours, and lead to longer waiting lists.

The district at present has 1,000 people waiting for orthopaedic surgery.

Mr Andrew Pearce, deputy administrator of Bath district health authority, forecast that the new cuts would cost more than 40 jobs, including some nurses, while waiting lists grew. There were 7,300 people in the district waiting for operations and a two-year period before hip replacements could be carried out.

Marble head of Augustus sold for £32,400

By Geraldine Norman

A marble portrait head of the Emperor Augustus, now with his nose missing, carved early in the first century AD, was sold at Christie's yesterday for £32,400 (estimate £10,000-£15,000) to a private collector. The head is strongly and sensuously carved and is 15½ in high. With the constant claims and counter claims over the issue of returning antiquities to their country of origin, Christie's has been careful to record that the head was bought in Rome in 1932.

The Corning Glass Museum had sent a fine example of a Roman glass goblet for sale. It stands four and a quarter inches high and the sides are decorated with a snake-like trail of applied glass. It was probably made in the Near East and sold for £23,760 to the Mansur Gallery, London dealers.

Among the Egyptian pieces, Christie's expectations were disappointed when an 11th bronze statue of Wadjet sold for £10,800 (estimate £15,000-£18,000) to Victor Barakat of Los Angeles.

At Sotheby's Old Master paintings secured £228,360 with 30 per cent unsold.

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Decline of 'think tank' tasks began in 1979

By Peter Hennessy

Mrs Margaret Thatcher ended the special role of the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS), the Cabinet's "think tank", in advising ministers on public spending priorities on taking office in 1979, four years before she decided to disband it altogether, it was disclosed this week.

Sir Leo Pliatzky, former Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade, who headed the public expenditure side of the Treasury in the 1970s, described the decline of the think tank's spending tasks at a seminar on "The Coming Public Expenditure Crisis?" at the Policy Studies Institute in Westminster on Tuesday evening.

When the CPRS was founded in 1971 by Mr Edward Heath one of its prime functions was the preparation of a joint paper with the Treasury on spending priorities at the beginning of the annual expenditure cycle, to raise ministers' sights above their parochial departmental interests.

Sir Leo also disclosed that the Treasury pulled out of the



Sir Leo Pliatzky: Scathing criticism

arrangement when Mr Denis Healey was Chancellor of the Exchequer, obliging the think tank to circulate its advice "as a purely CPRS document".

Sir Leo was scathing about the think tank's contribution to the preparation of public spending policy. "The CPRS, lacking expertise in this field, seemed to me at best to contribute little and at worst to render the task of bringing expenditure under control that bit more arduous."

No curb on coach speeds

The Government has refused to reduce the maximum speed for coaches from 70 to 60 mph after recent motorway accidents. But a big monitoring exercise of motorway speed of vehicles of all kinds is to be carried out during the next few months, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Junior Transport Minister disclosed yesterday.

The check will not be confined to coaches but they

Church relations discussed

From Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent, York

Unity with the Roman Catholic Church did not mean "asking the Holy Office and the Roman Curia to come and run the Church of England", Professor Henry Chadwick, Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge University, assured the General Synod at its meeting in York yesterday.

"I think you can be absolutely certain that the offer would be regarded by the Roman Curia as quite wonderfully unattractive," he added.

He was answering some of the criticisms expressed in the debate on relations with the Roman Catholic Church and with other churches. The possibility of Roman interference in the internal affairs of the Church of England was one such criticism.

Professor Chadwick, a member of both the old and the new Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commissions, said that some rules were necessary in an international church so that the church in France, say, would not be out of step with the church in Germany.

"Therefore it is rather important for the Roman Curia to keep in touch with all its bishops in various places."

He went on to say that he had recently discussed with a Roman Catholic bishop on the Continent the bishop's relations with the curia. The bishop admitted he did "very, very rarely" receive an instruction from Rome which he regarded as impossible or disastrous.

"What do you do then," I asked him, and the answer I got was: "At the last Judgment I have to answer for this decision." Was that not a noble reply?

Farmers begin to value straw

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

The familiar black plumes of smoke that hang over the countryside as farmers set fire to straw and stubble after harvesting are likely to be less in evidence this year.

One reason is that the shortage of hay and silage last spring, when the fields were too wet to turn cattle out, created a strong demand for straw as an animal feed. To the chagrin of farmers who had burnt it last autumn, it was at one point fetching up to £100 a tonne.

Aware of widespread public dislike of burning and pressure for a ban from fire officers, both the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Farmers' Union have been urging cereal growers to consider ways of using the harvest residue.

At last week's Royal Show

the main working demonstration was devoted to straw utilization. The alternative uses proffered were as a fuel, as animal feed, as an industrial raw material and as a fertilizer.

Straw has about half the energy value of good coal, and a number of straw-fired boilers have come on to the market in the past few years. Their principal market is likely to be among farmers themselves for domestic hot water and central heating, and for grain drying and heating glasshouses and livestock buildings.

As a feed it can be treated with caustic soda or ammonia, be improved to the equivalent of medium quality hay, although untreated barley or oats straw is acceptable to cattle.

Its main industrial use is for manufacture of paper, board and cartons. Its value as a

fertilizer when ploughed back into the soil depends its being chopped into small enough pieces.

Apart from the environmental and safety objections to burning, sportsmen dislike it because it destroys the grains split by combines and the insects on which game birds, particularly partridges, feed.

For farmers its attractions are that it is quick and labour saving, destroys weeds and means that the field needs minimal cultivation before the new seeds are drilled. The ash also acts as a light fertilizer.

The union recently issued a stricter code of practice, and the ministry's Agricultural Development and Advisory Service had reminded farmers that careless burning is a criminal offence and may lead to jail.

MSC chief defends projects

By Lucy Hodges

Education Correspondent

Technical training at school is needed to motivate young people and bring them into the twenty-first century, Mr David Young, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, said yesterday.

Speaking at the local education authorities' annual conference in Canterbury, Mr Young as paymaster of new training courses in schools, was entering the lion's den. The local authority associations, and the education world generally, are still seething that the MSC has intervened to fund the new technical and vocational training for teenagers.

Mr Young defended the 14 pilot projects beginning next term at a cost of £7m, and the recently announced £20m extension of the training, but emphasized that the commission had no plans to "take over the education service."

"Despite all that you may read, we in the MSC have no further territorial ambitions in the schools system outside the pilots," he said. "You are running them and you will make them work."

"If our young people are to be prepared to change their occupational direction several times in their lifetime and are prepared to invest the effort to acquire higher skills, then they need a broad based education developing skills and interests for a fuller life, both in work and out."

Mr Young argued that there was nothing narrow or mean about that. He said that 11 per cent of school leavers in 1980-81 gained no qualifications and a further 36 per cent left with only low grade CSEs. "In employers' eyes, nearly one in two of our young people left school with nothing to show for it."

"Did that one in two feel that their 11 years of education had been worthwhile? I do not know the answer but this I do know; that there are many in that group we could motivate and bring back and help to acquire the skills necessary for a full and productive life as a citizen of this country?"

£10,000 for cure

Debbie Bowyer, aged 13, of Old Coppice Side, Marpool, Derbyshire, who has raised £10,000 in eight months so that another child can benefit from the treatment which saved her life at Westminster Hospital, London. She was dying of aplastic anaemia until she had a bone marrow transplant from her brother.

Farmer wins right to father's tenancy

Mr Richard Saul, a Norfolk farmer, won an important legal ruling yesterday which could benefit thousands of smallholders wishing to take over tenancies after their fathers died.

A High Court judge in London ruled that, in cases where local authorities granted tenancies before August, 1970 - when there was a change in the law - smallholders such as Mr Saul had a "right of succession".

Mr Saul's landlord, Norfolk County Council, who had opposed his case and contended that no tenant smallholders had a right of succession to their farms, was given leave to appeal.

Mr Saul's father was granted the tenancy of Clarks Farm, Monks Toff, Beccles, in

1965. He has since died. On March 10 this year the Agricultural Land Tribunal (Eastern Area) refused to hear Mr Saul's application to succeed to the tenancy.

In his appeal to the High Court, Mr Saul successfully challenged the tribunal's decision that his father's 1965 tenancy was covered by the 1970 Agriculture Act which removed the benefit of succession rights from smallholders.

Mr Justice McNeill sent his application back to the tribunal to be heard in accordance with yesterday's ruling. Norfolk County Council was ordered to pay Mr Saul's costs. Lawyers said later that the ruling was a test case which would affect smallholders throughout the country.



Darren Wheeler yesterday: Beat older opponent.

Paston in chess final

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

The two schools that will contest the final in The Times British Schools Chess Tournament in London are the Paston School, North Walsham, Norfolk, and Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall.

Paston soon attained a marked advantage over Grove School, St Leonards. On the bottom board for Paston, Timothy Carter took only eight minutes to win a 16-move game against Mark Lyon. Paston followed that up by three more wins to defeat their opponents by the crushing score of five to one.

Denis, with Paston School's names, beat Mark Lyon, 16 years, 8 months, that of Queen Mary's 14 years, 8 months, which meant that the grammar school had to win by four to two to overcome the handicap of senior age.

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Effects of heat making people careless and accident-prone

By Rupert Morris

People are becoming careless and accident-prone because of the hot weather, a doctor at a seaside resort said yesterday.

Dr Gillian MacDonagh, consultant at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, treated 27 day trippers and holiday-makers on one day during the searave in the hospital's casualty department, which now expects 1,500 patients in July alone.

Many of the injured needed treatment for burns, ranging from sunburn to accidents in the home where people were only lightly clad in tee-shirts and swimming gear. In the last 10 days the number of people being treated for burns at the hospital has risen by 50 per cent.

Dr MacDonagh said: "There is no single explanation except that many people have become careless in this weather. The heat is taking its toll. It is not so far-fetched to warn that people could die if they sleep in bedrooms without proper ventilation."

As temperatures continued into the 90s, Smiths Industries in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, told its workers that they

could clock on at 6am and leave work at 2pm, to avoid working through the heat of the afternoon. Several other local firms followed suit.

A Smiths spokesman said the new working hours would also prevent the malfunctioning of overheated delicate instruments - which is what caused the startled townspeople of Brecon, Powys, to be woken in the early hours of the morning by an incessant pealing of bells.

New machinery had been installed in the belfry of St David's Church and the heat is thought to have caused a pin to dislodge so that the bells rang for half an hour until the Rev James Courts climbed up in his pyjamas to restore calm.

At a South Wales suntan oil factory 140 women were sent home after refusing to wear long-sleeved overalls as the factory floor temperature reached 100°F.

Mrs Margaret Meacham, shop steward at the factory, said yesterday: "We asked to be allowed to wear short sleeves and sandals and have a cold drink in the afternoon. But the company refused and said we had to wear the normal overalls

and stout shoes, and sent the girls home."

"One woman collapsed and we have several others who are pregnant. For a firm making suntan oil you would think they would understand about hot weather."

There was a health fire yesterday at Liphook, Hampshire the hottest place in Britain for the past two days, and the Hampshire Ambulance Service found most of its vehicles overheating. Back-up ambulances had to be sent out while others waited to cool down.

In Chichester, Sussex, and RSPCA officials tried to track down a couple whose dog had died of heat stroke after being left in their car. An RSPCA spokesman said: "To confine a dog in a parked car in this weather is nothing short of torture."

Water authorities in Wales and the south and east of England appealed to gardeners to use hosepipes sparingly and advised people to put off washing the car. In parts of Gwent, Powys and Clwyd the use of hosepipes was banned, and sprinklers will be banned in most of Gwynedd from today.

Briton acquitted of killing wife's lover

A Briton was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of murdering his wife's lover 3,000 miles away in Kuwait.

Mr Roy Amlot for the prosecution, had alleged that Colin Littlechild, aged 41, had tracked his runaway wife to the Arab state where she was living with his friend Mr Jack Smith, aged 32, a British oil worker.

The prosecution claimed that while Mr Smith slept, Mr Littlechild cut his throat for motives of "jealousy and revenge", afterwards disguising the killing as suicide by placing the knife in Mr Smith's hand.

But Mr Littlechild, of Waddington Avenue, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, told the jury he had nothing to do with the killing three years ago, although he was in the flat.

He said he spent the night there after flying to Kuwait hoping that Mr Smith might help him to find a job. Mr Littlechild said he was extremely embarrassed to find his wife Lena, aged 36, living with Mr Smith. He had not seen her since she left their former home at High Street, Lingfield, Surrey, two years earlier.

The jury heard conflicting evidence from professor Keith Simpson and professor James Cameron the British pathologists and Mr Ibrahim El Abi, an Arab pathologist. Professor Simpson and professor Cameron both said that after examining photographs of the dead man they believed he had been murdered.

The Arab pathologist, called for the defence and the only one of the three to have examined Mr Smith's body, said he



Mr Littlechild after his acquittal

believed that the oil worker had committed suicide.

But Mr Amlot said: "Suicide does not make sense."

Mrs Littlechild had vanished in April, 1980, after changing her name to Smith by deed poll, unknown to her husband. She and Mr Smith, although both married, went through a form of marriage in Kuwait and lived very happily together until Mr Littlechild arrived. Mr Amlot said.

Mr Littlechild said he had wanted to find his wife to sort out financial arrangements over their flat. The three had drinks and discussed the matter. He left for twenty minutes to allow matters to "cool off" and, when he returned, found the atmosphere between his wife and Mr Smith "tense".

He told the jury: "I personally think the answer to all this lies in what happened or was said between Lena and Jack while I was out."

Jeers as bail is refused in council siege case

An angry crowd jeered yesterday when magistrates refused to give bail to Terence Rafferty, the man at the centre of the council chamber siege in Liskeard, Cornwall, nine days ago.

Mr Mike Robertson, a wealthy storekeeper, had offered to stand bail for any sum the court named.

But magistrates rejected the application and Mr Rafferty, 54 today and an unemployed father of three, was remanded in custody for a further week. Reporting restrictions have been lifted at the request of the defence.

Mr Rafferty, of Polbathick, east Cornwall, is accused of possessing a 12-bore shotgun at Liskeard on July 4 with intent to endanger life.

Yesterday the 200-strong crowd outside the court jeered

when Mr Robertson told them Mr Rafferty was remanded in custody.

It was said earlier that the siege began after Caradon's planning committee turned down a planning application by Mr Rafferty. Mr Philip Stephens, defending, said yesterday the siege was a "one-off offence". A once-in-a-lifetime demonstration. Mr Rafferty would be "heavily prejudiced" in his defence if he was kept in custody.

Mr Arthur Hutchings the Magistrates' chairman rejected the bail application. On the same grounds as last week: "That Rafferty obtained a shotgun and adapted it for a particular use." Mr Hutchings said the decision was reached after also considering "previous threats" made to the planning officer.

Jeffreys gets new judgment

By Richard Dowden

Was Judge Jeffreys a monster who sent people to the scaffold with ghastly glee? Or was he an innocent victim of circumstance, suffering from overwork, diminished responsibility, acting on orders, occasionally tired and emotional? Quite a charming and humane chap really?

In the columns of the *Law Society Gazette* lawyers are battling over the reputation of perhaps their most celebrated colleague.

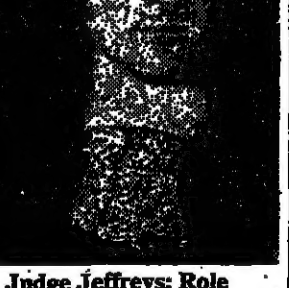
In an article Colin Hunt quotes Thomas Pitt, who she says attended some of the assizes, at which Jeffreys is reported to have sentenced more than 160 people to be hung, drawn and quartered.

He observed neither humanity to the dead nor civility to the living," Mr Pitt wrote.

However, Richard Rose, a London solicitor, dismisses Thomas Pitt as a virulent Whig pamphleteer, and says Jeffreys was "humane, intelligent and satirically humorous, though frangible when provoked. He could at times be charming."

Mr Michael Rubenstein, another London solicitor, dismisses Mr Rose's case as "nauseating whitewash" and is incensed at the suggestion that "evil conduct... should be condoned or excused by reference to physical or temperamental malfunctioning."

The truth, according to an historian of the period, contacted by *The Times*, is simply that Jeffreys had no choice. Dr Peter Earle of the London School of Economics says that the mandatory penalty for treason was being hung, drawn and quartered. The only appeal was to the king. Does Jeffreys deserve a retrial?



Judge Jeffrey-Rose: Role disputed



A hot spot: Police Constable L. Parry taking Gideon through a flaming hoop at the Metropolitan Police Horse Show at Imber Court, East Molesey, Surrey, yesterday. Photograph: Harry Kerr

Murdered au pair 'treated as skivvy'

Miss Alana Paton, an au pair, was a "skivvy" to her wealthy West German employer, but when she was murdered in a wood in Hamburg the school teacher who made her work 12 hours a day refused to help detectives to find her killer, an inquest jury at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, was told yesterday.

Herr Volker Schmidt, a German detective, told the court about the lack of co-operation by Miss Paton's employer, Frau Silke Lehmann, and a cry for help by the girl, dying from three stab wounds in her chest and shoulder.

Herr Schmidt said: "Frau Lehmann does not want to help police. I think she, like other German teachers, is anti-police. We think she knew her attacker otherwise she would not have gone in this dark place."

Miss Paton, aged 17, of Rimsdale Court, Bletchley, went to work for the Lehmanns 12 months ago. She was found unconscious 250 yards from

where she was attacked in March.

Mr Rodney Corner, the coroner, told the jury that Frau Lehmann had refused to come to England to give evidence despite cash offers to cover her expenses.

One friend, Miss Tina Moore, aged 17, read passages from her letters which described how she used to cry herself to sleep at night "because I am so unhappy and hate the Lehmanns".

Mrs Jane Brockman, the dead girl's mother, told the jury: "She wrote and told me she was being used. She worked from 7 am to 7 pm, and one month she did not get a single day off."

After the jury returned an unlawful killing verdict, the girl's stepfather, Mr Raymond Brockman said: "We are not happy about the way Alana was treated but we are ordinary people and cannot afford to pursue the matter."

Mounted band plays out

The Royal Artillery Mounted Band one of the oldest and most famous bands in the British army, plays its swan song tonight at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. The band, which first played in 1878, at the Queen's birthday parade, but had its origins more than 100 years earlier, is a victim of defence cuts. The original band was formed in 1747.

The mounted band came into being 113 years later with the amalgamation of the bands of the Royal Artillery and the Royal Horse Artillery.

Since the decision to disband, Captain Frank Renton, the director of music, has lined up an impressive array of engagements for his musicians, including the Turin Festival and special performances for the British Ambassador in Rome. Captain Renton will be guest conductor tonight when the band plays its final farewell to Kneller Hall.

Warning by judge on Mafia cash

A judge at the Central Criminal Court issued a warning yesterday that Mafia-backed bondsmen, standing bail for accused people, often get their money back from the crime syndicate when people flee before trial.

Judge Michael Argyle, QC, made his comments after hearing that Iran Kesselmant, an alleged international cocaine dealer, had jumped bail of £50,000 and returned to the United States days before he was due to appear for trial.

He told Mr Stuart Brock: "If you receive any reimbursement from any Mafia source, or anything of that sort, you put yourself in very grave danger."

Mr Brock, aged 43, an electronics designer, of Peterborough Mansions, New King's Road, Fulham, south London, said there was "no question" of anyone returning the £25,000 bail he put up for Mr Kesselmant, a businessman.

Judge Argyle said Mr Brock and Miss Delia Hirst, aged 30, of Chesham Road, Clapham, who put up £5,000 bail, had been "double crossed" by Mr Kesselmant, a friend they trusted.

Treasury talks may be sought soon by drinks industry

By Staff Reporters

Early talks with the Treasury are likely to be sought by the drinks industry after the ruling by the European Court of Justice that Britain's rate of taxation on wine is illegal.

The ruling comes at a time when figures, to be issued by the industry today, show that the number of consumers in Britain has almost doubled, with the annual consumption of wine now at 13.5 litres a head.

In contrast, Europeans are drinking less wine. The European Commission says that the average citizen now consumes of no more than 4.7 litres a year compared with nearly a litre a week in the late 1970s.

A sharp downturn in sales of "heavy" wines like sherry, port and vermouth over the past 12 months is shown in today's figures from the Wine and Spirit Association of Great Britain. But consumption of table wine has increased from 90 million litres in 1970 to about 332 million litres now.

Looking at a relatively balanced drinks economy such as Germany's, they get through 25 litres of wine per head each year, a spokesman for the association said. "So in European terms we are still small beer."

Sales of still and sparkling wines were up by 7.7 per cent, or 34 million litres heavy wines were 12 million litres less in the past 12 months and 16 million litres over a three-year period.

The industry has welcomed the European Court of Justice ruling. We normally talk to the Treasury at least once a year but once we have done our sums we might look for an early consultation", the Wine and Spirit Association said.

The spokesman said that the downturn in port and sherry sales represented a heavy loss to the industry and came after the widening in the 1981 Budget of the differential in duty between light and heavy wines.

The drop in EEC consumption is largely attributable to a decrease in both France and Italy. Over the past 20 years, consumption in France has dropped from 123 litres to 89 litres a head, and in Italy from 109 litres to 84 litres a head.

It is bad news for those who have to stop the European "wine lake" from flooding. The EEC, despite the fact that it is succeeding in getting half a million acres of vineyards ploughed up since 1980, is still producing more wine than it can consume.

The "wine lake" at the moment would fill about 100 million ordinary bottles and estimates of this year's vintage are that it will be another bumper year producing about 169.7 million hectolitres. That is about 30 million hectolitres more than last year, when production was 3 per cent more than the EEC could consume.

This year's harvest is also likely to produce the highest ever amount of quality wine, with nearly a quarter of the total production falling into the top category, the highest proportion since 1974 when there was a smaller harvest.

Wine continues to be only the fourth most popular drink in the community. Tea is top, with the average citizen drinking 200 litres a year, followed by coffee (170 litres) and beer (90 litres).

Year-old British cars best buy, AA finds

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Too many motorists are swayed by giveaway prizes such as colour television sets, holidays in the sun and big discounts when buying their new cars when they should be checking on its resale value, the Automobile Association says.

To prove the point it has conducted a survey of the depreciation values of different makes. The result published yesterday in the AA's *Drive* magazine reveals trends which are aids to selecting new and second-hand models.

British cars tend to depreciate more than foreign makes in their first year but are better at holding their value in succeeding years. It suggests that one to three-year old British car makes a good buy.

That contrasts sharply with Japanese cars which hold their value well in the first

year but depreciate steeply in the second. French and Italian cars lose most in the first year but German cars follow the Japanese pattern of good first-year prices.

One car appears to come out of the survey with an impressive retention value at the end of its 12-month warranty period. The Ford Escort 1300cc is said to be still worth 97 per cent of its current purchase price, a figure which surprised many Ford dealers last night. They put it at nearer 85 per cent.

Jaguar revealed yesterday that sales of its cars worldwide in the first six months of 1983 totalled 14,528, an increase of 42 per cent on the same period last year.

America sales of 7,733, (73 per cent up) put Jaguar well on the road to beating last year's record annual total of 10,349.

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The APC and its NEC 3530 Spinwriter has so many unique features - in fact, there are too many to list here.

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For more information, please fill in and return this coupon to: NEC Business Systems (Europe) Ltd., Corporate Division, 80888, Drayton Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, U.K.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

NEC Corporation

Barclaycard fights £8m credit fraud

By Bill Johnstone

Electronics Correspondent

Barclaycard has installed in selected retail outlets about 600 electronic devices which validate credit cards, as part of a campaign against fraud, which costs the company £8m a year.

The machines read the coded information on the card and transmit it to computers, which instruct the retailer whether the card is fraudulent, has the correct limit and is valid.

Other anti-fraud measures include a poster campaign alerting people to the dangers of credit card theft and loss.

Credit card fraud, which was growing at about 6 per cent a year has been reduced eightfold in 12 months. Losses are small in relation to the size of the Barclaycard turnover, which has risen to £2,500m a year. There are seven million card carriers in Britain.

London to Brighton in 3½ minutes

By Kenneth Gosling

On paper it should have been the most straightforward project which could have been advised by the combined knowledge of the BBC and British Rail, Southern Region.

To mark the half century of the electrification of the London to Brighton line it was decided to clip half a minute from the journey time of four minutes portrayed in the famous 1953 production by the BBC Film Unit, first shown on children's television and used many times afterwards as "filler" material.

The original speeded-up film, showing the 51 miles being covered at 765 mph, so impressed the public that people flooded British Rail with calls asking to go on this four-minute trip.

It took three runs to complete the film, using a hand-cranked camera and 35mm film.

Last month, again using 35mm film but this time in colour, the historic trip was recreated. The headcode panel

was removed from the cab window and a camera installed behind a sheet of glass.

The first problem came at Balcombe tunnel, according to Mr Nigel Hanch, a BBC producer. It had rained for months and at the end of the tunnel they had to stop to wipe the window clear of water.

That was followed by a signal failure and a man with a red flag stood by beside the line to explain the problem. It was back, slowly, to Gatwick, to take the stretch again.

The result will be shown at 6.55pm tomorrow on BBC 1. But perhaps more excitingly for Southern Region, there will be a crack at the actual London to Brighton record on Saturday.

The steam record is 48 minutes; the Brighton Belle did it in 55 and British Rail hopes to do it in 45 using a train carrying under-privileged youngsters sponsored by the Variety Club.

However, as one railway

enthusiast pointed out yesterday, it still takes a couple of minutes longer to do the scheduled run than it did in 1953, and it will be a couple of years yet before the time is reduced to 50 minutes or better.

For anyone who would rather go to Brighton to see the film than stay at home and watch it on television, Southern Region has an exhibition at the rear of which the film forms a part.

For the record, the journey speed over three and a half minutes is 900mph.

Gift for opera

The English National Opera has received £250,000 from the National Westminster Bank for new productions of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* and *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg*, the largest single sponsorship it has received. *The Valkyrie* opens on October 22. *The Mastersingers* opens next February.

US deficit and trade war black spots on Howe's agenda for Washington

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the foreign secretary, arrived here yesterday for wide-ranging talks on trade, economics and international issues with President Reagan and senior members of his Administration.

Although Sir Geoffrey visited Washington many times in his former capacity as Chancellor of the Exchequer this is his first trip to the United States as foreign secretary. It is also the highest level visit by a British minister to Washington since Mrs Margaret Thatcher's election victory last month.

In addition to meeting President Reagan, Sir Geoffrey will have talks with Vice-President George Bush, Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and members of the Senate foreign relations and House foreign affairs committees.

British officials said his talks would cover three main areas - the world at large, including East-West relations, arms control, Nato and regional issues such as Afghanistan, Poland, the Middle East and Central America; the world economic situation, particularly the United States' role in the economic recovery and the international debt crisis; and bilateral issues, notably trade.

the controversial Export Administration Act, steel imports and the dispute over transatlantic air traffic arising from the collapse of Laker Airways.

Although Sir Geoffrey's talks were expected to be cordial, with broad agreement expected on most issues, British sources said he would express concern over what the British Government regards as protectionist moves by the United States.

Britain has already voiced strong reservations, both independently and in partnership with its European partners, over moves to tighten up the Export Administration Act. It was under this Act that the United States imposed its embargo last year on British and other foreign subsidiaries of United States firms supplying equipment for the Soviet gas pipeline.

Sir Geoffrey has also criticized the Reagan Administration's decision to impose tariffs and quotas on specialty steel imports.

In his talks with Mr Reagan and Mr Volcker, Sir Geoffrey will emphasize British concern, which is widely shared in Europe, about the size of the United States budget deficit, high United States interest rates and the inflated value of the dollar against other leading currencies.

At last month's economic summit in Williamsburg, Britain joined other participants in

urging the United States to reduce its budget deficit in order to take pressure off interest rates.

The British Government believes that continued high interest rates will not only impede the world economic recovery but could also add to the problems of countries like Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela which have huge debts with Western banks.

Sir Geoffrey will reaffirm Britain's determination to go ahead with the deployment of cruise missiles at the end of this year as part of a Nato decision to deploy 572 Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles in Europe.

Britain has refused to accept the Soviet Union's contention that its Polaris missile force be included in the US-Soviet negotiations in Geneva on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe.

Arms denial: Sir Geoffrey is expected to repeat British backing for American policy in Central America, a policy laid out by Mr Reagan on April 27 that includes military aid to support democracy in the region (Henry Stanhope writes).

Whitehall sources last night emphatically denied a report, quoting a spokesman of the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces (FDN), that Britain might be about to supply arms to El Salvador.



Knesset debate: Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Defence Minister (left), and Mr Manachem Begin, the Prime Minister, during a debate on events in Hebron. Mr Arens pledged Israel would build up the Jewish community there.

Russia backs PLO militants

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

As doubts gather over the timing and purpose of the mooted visit to Moscow by Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Russians have been cementing their links with one of the hard-line groups in the PLO in a week of top level talks that were not announced until they had ended.

Pravda said on Tuesday that Mr Naif Hawatmeh, leader of the militant Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, spent a week in Moscow until

Monday at the head of a delegation that had talks in the Foreign Ministry and with senior party officials as well as with the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

The Russians briefed the delegation on their support for the Palestinian cause, and are assumed to have made their stand clear on the rebellion against Mr Arafat's leadership.

Meanwhile, Mr Faruk Kaddumi, head of the PLO's political wing, met Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign



Minister, in Moscow yesterday on a mission originally intended to prepare the ground for a visit by Mr Arafat. However Mr Arafat's announcement on Tuesday that he had no immediate plans to go to Moscow has reduced the impact of Mr Kaddumi's visit.

The Russians have kept a careful silence on the bitter row between Mr Arafat, whom they have consistently supported, and Syria, their principal Arab ally.

Tass steps down in clash with Marchais

Moscow (AFP) - An incident on Tuesday when M. Georges Marchais, the secretary-general of the French Communist Party, tangled with Tass was the fault of the Soviet side, it was admitted informally here yesterday.

The Soviet press predictably kept quiet but officials said informally that they could understand M. Marchais' annoyance at statements "attributed to him by an over-zealous interpreter".

The statement said that M. Marchais felt "the main danger (in the present international situation) is from the intention of the American imperialists to deploy their new missiles in Europe".

M. Marchais immediately dissociated himself from the statement, saying that he advocated "balanced reduction in weapons, taking into account all those already deployed by East and West". Tass withdrew the report.

PARIS: In an unusual step, L'Humanite, the French Communist Party newspaper, referred to the cancelled Tass report in a front-page article yesterday (Diana Geddes writes).

A few days before leaving for Moscow, M. Marchais had lunch with President Mitterrand to discuss his visit. M. Charles Fiterman, the senior Communist minister in the Government, was also at the lunch.

Baby elephant blows its own trumpet

Moscow (Reuters) - A local radio station has broadcast an "interview" with a baby elephant at a zoo in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, Tass reported.

The elephant, named Batir, spoke nearly 20 phrases into tape recorders for zoologists, who were checking a claim by the watchman at the zoo that Batir talked during the night saying: "Batir is good. Batir is a fine fellow."

Colorado's trail of havoc

Wild West river on the rampage

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The awesome Colorado river is roaring down the canyons from the Rockies to Mexico in its wildest rampage for 50 years. The bill for wrecked houses, compensation and shelter for people made homeless by floods is running into millions of dollars.

Many of the hundreds of people whose homes, businesses and livelihoods have been washed out are angrily blaming government river control authorities for blundering.

The authorities admit they were caught out by exceptionally heavy rain and an unexpected late snowfall in the Rockies, followed by a heatwave. Nevertheless many riverbank residents had either grown complacent about living alongside such a wild river, or taken a chance, and lost.

The Colorado runs for 1,450 miles to the Gulf of California and has carved the Grand Canyon and other magnificent fissures. It waters seven states and part of Mexico, and its dams, aqueducts and reservoirs have created rich communities in once barren parts of California and Arizona.

The 726 foot Hoover Dam, near Las Vegas, is the greatest of the eight along the Colorado and is one of the world's largest suppliers of hydroelectric power. It has also helped to control flooding.

This year, however, the Colorado has proved that it is not completely tamed. The extraordinary combination of very heavy rain, snowfall three times heavier than normal and the onset of hot weather made nonsense of the estimates of the Bureau of Reclamation, the river management authority.

With reservoirs brimming, threatening large-scale floods, engineers have had to relieve pressure by increasing outflow from the dams, leading to flooding of more manageable proportions.

The engineers say that they have to release enough water



for the reservoirs to cope with the next snow melt.

Hundreds of people have been evacuated and many of them are furious, saying the river managers should have released water sooner. The Government has opened disaster compensation offices and more than 600 people have lodged claims.

Five Mexicans have been killed in the flooding, and an American died when a raft capsized in the Grand Canyon.

Some resort towns in the lower reaches of the river, from Hoover Dam to Yuma, close to the Mexican border, are suffering because of a ban on tourist boating and because visitors are staying away. But Boulder City booms as visitors flock to see water flowing over the Hoover Dam spillway for the first time in 42 years.

Many of those affected by flooding are among the 2,000 or so people who have occupied the risk of living in the flood plain because it is relatively cheap to do so and because the winter climate is agreeable. Some are retired people, living in caravans, who would find it too expensive to move and who cannot afford flood insurance.

The Colorado is still running high, and will do so for several months. Engineers say it has stabilized but there is concern that seeping floodwater poses a long-term threat to farming in parts of California, Arizona and Mexico.

Girl shot dead during Santiago curfew

Santiago (AFP) - A Chilean girl, aged 19, was shot dead near Santiago and a boy of 17 was shot in the back during a curfew ordered by President Augusto Pinochet's regime to quash a "third day of national protest".

Police identified the girl as Isabel Sanhueza Palecio, a student. She was shot in the neck, on Tuesday, but the exact circumstances of her death were not immediately clear.

The other victim Alberto Pino Quezada, was shot in the back from a passing car in a suburb of Santiago, police said. While troops yesterday patrolled the capital to enforce the 8pm curfew, a deafening din broke out as thousands of people banged pots and pans and sounded car horns to express anger at their country's economic straits, social problems and the military government's failure to draw up a definite plan for a return to democracy.

In two earlier days of protest, in May and June, six people died and some 2,000 were arrested in the most violent protests since the regime seized power a decade ago.

As electricity cuts plunged several neighbourhoods of the capital into darkness, including the central Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue, people built barricades and burnt tyres.

The banging and shouting

came as loudly from the elegant suburbs of Providencia, Vitacura and Reina as from the working-class districts of Pudahuel, Conchalí and Cisternas. Around midnight, numerous shots were heard around the capital.

The noisy protest was echoed in Concepcion, a city of some 1.5 million people, 350 miles from here, and also under military curfew.

Earlier in the day, three bombs had exploded on the railway line between Santiago and Valparaiso, interrupting traffic.

Hundreds of students demonstrated at the law faculty of the University of Chile and at the Catholic University.

Police also failed to stop angry demonstrations at the Santiago law courts, where lawyers for the arrested Christian Democratic Party leader, Señor Gabriel Valdés, and two of his colleagues, filed habeas corpus writs.

ROME: The Pope called yesterday for dialogue between the Government and protesters and urged demonstrators to avoid violence, "even in the attempt to reach goals of legitimate aspirations". He also endorsed the Chilean bishops' conference appraisal of the situation as "grave".

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South African policeman suspended after killing of black held in custody

General Johann Coetzee, the South African Commissioner of Police, announced yesterday that an unnamed white policeman has been suspended from duty in connection with the shooting of a young black man in a Soweto police station on July 5.

General Coetzee said that the suspension would remain in force at least until the investigation into the incident being carried out by the police department had been completed. Certain statements and the results of scientific tests were still outstanding.

Mr Paris Malatji, aged 24, died in the Protea police station. So far the police have admitted only that the cause of death was a bullet wound, and that it was inflicted shortly after Mr Malatji had been detained for questioning. They have not said what offence, if any, the dead man was suspected of.

A post mortem was carried out on July 7, and Mrs Pearl Legodi, the dead man's aunt, was present for the purposes of identifying the body. She was also told the results of the medical examination. The

police have so far refused to comment on the post mortem findings.

According to Mrs Legodi, Mr Malatji had a bullet wound in the middle of the forehead just above the nose. She said that the bullet appeared to have been fired at point blank range as there were burn marks visible on the skin. There were no signs of any other injuries.

So far the incident, which on the face of it appears to be one of the most horrific in the long catalogue of dark deeds in South Africa's police stations and prisons, has received remarkably little comment in the South African press. Not a single paper has yet reported the post mortem results.

South Africa has scrapped the last vestiges of statutory racially-based job reservation whereby certain jobs could be reserved exclusively for whites under the Labour Relations Act.

The Government's action puts an end to "Determination 27" which had hitherto reserved a small number of specialist jobs in the mines for whites - surveyors, samplers and ventilation officials. Now blacks can

also apply for these jobs. Although of some symbolic significance, the Government's move still leaves intact a formidable barrier to black advancement in the Mines and Works Act which dates back to the early years of this century and prohibits blacks, solely on the basis of their colour, from obtaining blasting certificates showing they are competent to handle dynamite.

This means that the more than 300,000 blacks who work on South Africa's gold, coal, copper and platinum mines are prevented from becoming fully-fledged miners, though there is no doubt that many are as competent as their white supervisors. This is technically not called job reservation, but its effect is the same.

The Government is in favour of the abolition of this barrier to black job advancement, but is not prepared to force the issue against the wishes of the very conservative white Miners' Union, which claims that the Government is less interested in removing the colour bar than in employing cheaper black labour.



Testing time: The submarine Santa Cruz, built by West Germany for Argentina, leaving Emden for sea trials. The 1,700-ton boat, first of a new class, has six torpedo tubes and a 25-knot top speed.

Welshman accused of subversion in Malta

Valletta - Mr Anthony Price, aged 20, from Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, was charged in court yesterday with conspiring to overthrow the government of Malta (our Correspondent writes).

The charge alleged that he had taken part in a conspiracy to subvert the government of Malta by taking up arms to compel it "to change its measures and councils".

Mr Price, who was prevented from leaving Malta by the police, was rearrested yesterday evening. He had previously been detained for 67 days, being released by court order on June 20.

Murder inquiry

Mr Richard Cottrell, Conservative MEP for Bristol and North Wiltshire was appointed yesterday by the European Parliament's petitions committee to investigate the murder of Miss Ann Chapman, a journalist, in Greece in 1971.

Basque deaths

Bilbao (Reuters) - Two gunmen believed to be Basque separatists shot dead a policeman north of Bilbao yesterday. In San Sebastian a suspected Basque guerrilla was killed by a bomb he was apparently carrying.

Dissident jailed

Moscow (AFP) - Mr Vasilii Barat, aged 37, leader of the committee for the right to emigrate, had been sentenced to five years in a labour camp for "agitation" and "anti-Soviet propaganda", *Trud* newspaper reported.

Missile mission

Tokyo (AFP) - Mr Shozo Kadota, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official has left for Moscow talks expected to deal with medium-range nuclear missiles which the Kremlin says may be switched to Asia, with four Soviet-occupied islands claimed by Japan (Leading article, page 13).

Royal check-up

Bahrain (Reuters) - Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia left Taif for a medical check-up in Geneva. Prince Abdullah, aged 59, is Deputy Prime Minister and commander of the 30,000-strong National Guard.

Man in the news

Cossiga on the switchback

From Peter Nichols, Rome



Signor Cossiga: Returning from political oblivion

Signor Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister who first appointed him to the post, was captured by the Red Brigades in what is still Italy's most important act of terrorism.

Signor Cossiga's police failed to find the Christian Democratic leader. On May 10, 1978, he resigned. The

body of Signor Moro had been found the previous day in the back of a car in the centre of Rome.

Signor Cossiga is a sensitive man with a strong conscience and sense of duty. He seemed to be at the end of his career if only because he himself might have been able to overcome the tremendous shock.

Then in August, 1979, President Pertini plucked him out of the shadows and made him Prime Minister. His policies won him the outright opposition of the Communists. Allegations were made that he had given a friendly warning to a Christian Democratic colleague about the impending arrest of his son, a terrorist.

A Parliamentary commission absolved him, but once again, the effect on him seemed likely to end his capacity to continue in the forefront of politics.

Now suddenly, and typically, he has been elected with more votes than any of his predecessors.

Yellow river valley faces flood crisis

Peking (Reuters) - Torrential rain which has swollen the Yangtze River to bursting point and claimed at least 90 lives is spreading north to threaten the Yellow River valley, reports from the area said yesterday.

Officials in the main Yangtze danger areas between Jianli, in Hubei province, and Jiujiang, in Jiangxi, said that the creaking system of dykes containing the treacherous river was still holding.

But in northern Qinghai province, the authorities at China's second biggest hydroelectric dam project near the headwaters of the Yellow River said that emergency work was in progress to stave off an expected flood as the rain feeds the waters upstream.

Construction workers were making strenuous efforts to fortify the structure of the Longyang Gorge dam.

In Anhui province, which has reported 90 dead so far, a flood control official said that the danger was not over yet.

In Wuhan, the capital of Hubei, the river was said to be already well over its level July, 1951, when it ruptured its dykes and burst on to low-lying land.

Bonn cracks down on protesters

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The West German Cabinet yesterday unanimously approved a controversial law making it an offence to take part in a demonstration that the police have declared to be violent.

Under the law, which is to be sent to committee stage and introduced as soon as possible, anyone who does not leave a rally after being ordered to do so by the police can now face up to one year's imprisonment, even if not personally engaged in violence.

The law, which was introduced by Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the right-wing Minister of the Interior, has been bitterly attacked by the Social Democratic opposition and the Greens, who see it as a threat to the constitutional right to demonstrate.

The police have also expressed doubts on the need for the change, saying rioters can be adequately dealt with under existing laws. Last weekend a senior judge said it could not be right that to convict rioters the state made all demonstrators criminals.

The toughening up of the law has been a main plank of the Christian Social Union, of which Herr Zimmermann is a leading member, and was one of

Chad army retakes key town

Ndjamena (Reuters) - Another 300 Zairean soldiers arrived in Chad yesterday to boost President Hissène Habré's army which appears to have turned the tide in its war against advancing Libyan-backed rebels.

The number of Zairean troops is expected to rise to more than 2,000 in the next few days.

The Government announced it had recaptured the key eastern town of Abéché which fell to rebel troops last weekend. Foreign correspondents were taken to Abéché to see for themselves that rebel claims to be in control were false.

The claimed recapture of Abéché, a dusty town of 40,000 people near the Sudanese border, was described as an important turning point in the Government's efforts to beat back the rebel offensive.

PARIS: Mr Idriss Misikine, the Chad Foreign Minister, said yesterday the civil war was "a situation of unprecedented gravity" and pressed a new request for French troops to intervene.

He said French shipments of military aid to Chad had been insufficient to end the Government offensive.

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Chirac launches offensive against tide of immigrants

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Racial tension is growing in France, and yesterday M. Jacques Chirac, the flamboyant Mayor of Paris, fired another salvo against immigrants. His attack is not likely to ease the problem.

He wants financial aid to induce what he calls foreign "refugees" to return to their country of origin, immediate expulsion of foreign residents who commit criminal offences, and much tougher entry requirements.

In an interview with *Paris Match* magazine, published yesterday, the Gaullist mayor said immigration was becoming "more and more worrying". Measures taken by the Government since May, 1981, (when the Socialists came to power), had led to a significant increase in the number of immigrants coming illegally to France, and in particular to Paris.

Not only had there been an increase in the traditional immigration from the former French territories in North Africa, but there had been successive waves of new immigrants from India and Pakistan, and even more recently from Ghana, Zaire, Angola, China and Hongkong, from where they were arriving in "great numbers".

He said: "They are increasingly English-speaking and come via London, which expels them to France. The last 'open and welcoming' country in Western Europe, and furthermore a country where it is easy to get social security".

In Paris, immigration was

particularly serious. Foreign pupils now accounted for 30 per cent on average of the school population, and even more in certain areas: 52 per cent in the 2nd Arrondissement; 42 per cent in the 3rd Arrondissement.

The city's social security office was inundated by requests from new immigrants. "These people are particularly demanding and sometimes aggressive. They are well informed about their rights", he said. That indicated the existence of diverse organized networks which are bringing them up to date with the latest legal situation.

The right response was "neither racism nor racialism", insisted, adding that he personally hated all forms of racialism. But new measures were urgently needed, the reintroduction of visas for certain countries, and much better frontier controls to ensure that "false tourists" did not enter the country clandestinely.

Much tighter checks were needed to ensure that "false students" did not use their studies as a pretext to settle in France. The family ties of alleged relatives of immigrants already living in France also needed to be checked much more carefully, as did their intended place of residence and claimed resources.

Foreigners asking for political asylum should be examined particularly carefully. Those who had already been living for several months in other countries should not be admitted, M. Chirac said.

Canberra experts may visit French test site

From Tony Dubouin, Melbourne

Australia is likely to send scientists to the French Pacific nuclear testing site on Mururoa Atoll to study the effects of the testing programme.

Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Australia was prepared to take part in the proposed inspection provided the mission was endorsed by the South Pacific forum meeting in Canberra next month.

"We do not want anyone to suggest that we are not prepared

to take part, but at the same time our priority is to ensure that our South Pacific partners understand and support such a move because our highest priority is to progress towards a nuclear-free South Pacific. We will do nothing to impair that", Mr Hayden said.

"France has approached Australia, New Zealand and a number of independent nations in the South Pacific to send qualified scientists to Mururoa Atoll.



On the warpath: A Salvadoran "Hunter Battalion" soldier on combat patrol near San Vicente. Rebels killed four troops and injured five in an ambush

Gierek permitted to live in peace

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Edward Gierek, the disgraced former Communist Party leader of Poland, appears to have escaped the humiliation of a public tribunal to assess his political mistakes. However, his Prime Minister, Mr Piotr Jaroszewicz, and a deputy premier are, according to the findings of a parliamentary commission, to be referred to a state tribunal to answer charges of economic mismanagement.

A question mark has hung over the fate of Mr Gierek ever since the imposition of martial law in December, 1981, when he and his principal ministers were interned - along with thousands of Solidarity activists - lest they become a focus of opposition.

There then followed a surge of public criticism of Mr Gierek and his era - he was party leader from 1970 until shortly after the strikes of August, 1980 - on the grounds of disastrous investment policies and fostering party corruption. This criticism stopped abruptly at the start of this year and his name has scarcely been mentioned since.

Mr Gierek, who now lives in a closely watched villa in Katowice, could still face criminal charges - for example, for building villas with state funds - but this now seems unlikely. His escape is due to the terms of reference of the parliamentary commission that has been examining the Gierek leadership for evidence of constitutional "irresponsibility".

But Mr Gierek never held a state position - only a party job, albeit the top one - and therefore cannot be tried. The political embarrassment of trying a party chief who was once on the best of terms with the Soviet Union has thus been spared the present Government.

Also exempt from being heard by the Tribunal of State - a parliamentary body which has the right to refer people to the prosecutor - are Mr Edward Babiuch, a former Prime Minister, and Mr Jan Szydlak and Mr Tadeusz Pyka, both Deputy Premiers under Mr Gierek.

But Mr Jaroszewicz, one of Mr Babiuch's predecessors as Prime Minister, and Mr Tadeusz Wrzesniewski, another Deputy Premier, who fell in February, 1980, say that he is ill and indeed a number of the accused Gierek leadership have suffered from illness.

Lawyer told to produce 'stolen' sex films

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Prosecutors have ordered a lawyer to produce in court films which he said showed senior Reagan Administration officials romping with women at sex parties.

Police served a subpoena on Mr Robert Steinberg on Tuesday night after he announced that the films he acquired from a mystery blonde had vanished.

Earlier, police seized Mr Steinberg's luxurious Beverly Hills office as part of the inquiry into the disappearance of three films. The lawyer said they showed couples having natural sex "as we know it" - and sadomasochistic sex.

He said they depicted sex games involving two officials, a congressman, a late millionaire friend of President Reagan, two businessmen and four women.

Mr Steinberg has been ordered to produce the films in criminal court on July 25, a police spokesman said. "When we served the subpoena, he apparently did not have the films."

"The Police Department has no substantiation of Mr Steinberg's public claims the films exist. The court will have to obtain some answers on the existence of the films and their alleged theft."

Mr Steinberg claimed people in the films included two members of the Reagan Administration of ambassadorial rank and a member of the US House of Representatives.

The late millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale, who was a member of President Reagan's so-called "kitchen cabinet" of advisers, was also in the films, he said.

Other participants were Vicki Morgan, Bloomingdale's self-proclaimed mistress, who was beaten to death last Thursday, two businessmen - "who go back 20 years (with the President)" - and three other women.

Mr Steinberg said he had been handed the films by a mysterious blonde who wanted them used as a bargaining tool in the trial of Marvin Pancoast, a 33-year-old unemployed clerk charged with Vicki Morgan's murder.

He reported the disappearance of the films soon after telling reporters he had telephoned Mr Fred Fielding, a White House lawyer in Washington and, on Fielding's advice, would hand over the films to the Los Angeles prosecutor's office.

Security goes private

Protection - at a price

MATABELELAND Part 3

the Shangani district owned by a local company.

Mr Ray Fawcett, a former policeman and head of Fawcett Security company, is at pains to emphasize that the guards do not constitute a private militia. Rather, he says, they are an early-warning system for farmers and a deterrent to gunmen.

Since the operation started more than three months ago,

he believes that the guards have twice saved farmers' lives.

In the first, an unarmed guard surprised a group of gunmen as they were cutting through a homestead security fence at night and, by acting as though armed, scared them off. In the second, two guards helped Mr Edward Rushmore, a Nyamandhlovu farmer, to drive off gunmen after the homestead came under fire.

Mr Fawcett acknowledges ruefully that not all guards have been as reliable. One, at the Nyamandhlovu farm of Sir Humphrey Gibbs, former governor of Southern Rhodesia, went berserk while drunk and fired shots into Lady Gibbs' car as it stood parked near the homestead. The guard was dismissed before doing any more harm.

The idea of a guard force was put to Mr Fawcett by another Nyamandhlovu farmer after Mr Eric Stratford, his wife and two grandchildren were murdered in March.

The main problem of the scheme is that farmers, in the grips of a second year of drought, can ill afford the cost. Mr Fawcett says the guards are supplied at cost, but still only 10 of the 25 farmers left in Nyamandhlovu can run to this additional protection.

Another farmer in the district, a former policeman, is trying to persuade the authorities to agree to the establishment of a police reserve, made up of farmers and serving members of the force, to help the Army on operations against gunmen.

Concluded



Sir Humphrey and Lady Gibbs: Guard went berserk.

Fear of AIDS causes blood bank shortage

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

New York hospitals are facing a chronic shortage of blood because of donors' irrational fears about the disease AIDS.

Surgeons say that unless people come in soon to give blood they will have to postpone operations. The director of the Greater New York Blood Programme says that if there were an emergency requiring large amounts of blood the blood bank would not be able to cope.

It is widely believed that the disease can be transmitted through blood transfusions and now, it is clear, there is a fear that it can be caught simply by giving blood.

Thai officers ordered to declare assets

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

In a new drive against corruption the Thai Government has ordered more than 10,000 ministers, officials and military officers to declare their assets and liabilities within 15 days to the Counter Corruption Committee.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, rejecting a proposal that the military should be exempted, said the image of the armed forces might be tarnished if officers were not included.

This is the first time that officers, down to the level of divisional commanders, and permanent officials have been obliged to file personal financial reports.

ministers and a small number of senior officials were required to do so. The new rule also applies to police officers down to chief inspector level, senior judges, public prosecutors and university rectors.

Mr Prathuang Kiratibutr, a former Interior Minister, appeared in the criminal court in Bangkok yesterday to deny charges that he had behaved improperly as Director General of the Public Prosecution Department, ordering a prosecutor to drop serious drug charges against a young New Zealand tourist three years ago.

He was also accused of acting improperly in another narcotics case.

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It's amazing what a little drop of oil can do.

THE ARTS

Opera

Carreras's unmistakable power and artistry

Il trovatore
Covent Garden

The current *Trovatore* at Covent Garden, the last revival of the season, stands normal opera chronology on its head. Regular practice is for the theatre to assemble a glossy cast after a few pow-wows with a record company; the show goes on stage and then a year or so later comes the opera set, with perhaps a few judicious minor cast changes. At the ROH this time affairs are the other way round. The forces employed are an almost exact replica of those on the Philips *Trovatore*, but that was issued two years ago.

Even so the cast is virtually new as far as London is concerned. The only familiar face among the principals is Yuri Mazurok's Count di Luna, ever sturdy of tone but straying off pitch during "Il balen" and generally less ingratiating in the part than he was last time round. The successes came from the real newcomers, starting with José Carreras

singing his first Manrico on stage.

When Carreras took on Radames at Salzburg his detractors claimed in advance that he lacked the necessary stamina and he firmly showed them the gate on the opening night. There were similar mutterings about Manrico, but Carreras again quelled the unbelievers by straightforward power and artistry. "Ah, si, ben mio" found the voice a bit edgy and strained; but the last act, with the finishing line clearly in sight, released some magnificent sounds especially in the scenes with Azucena. Foreign opera houses scratching their heads in search of a Troubadour now know where to look, unless Carreras is putting a strict quota on the number of Manricos he sings which, being a prudent man, he is likely to do.

Stefania Toczyńska in her Opera House debut makes a highly individual Azucena. In a fetching silvery wig she looks more like Manrico's kid sister than his mother. Her mezzo has neither the boom of an Obozova nor the cut of a Balza, but it has a secure warmth and Miss

Toczyńska has the sense not to demand too much of it even with the orchestra going full pelt. An admirable debut, and one which suggests she would be well worth hearing in the Rossini mezzo repertory.

Katia Ricciarelli's Leonora is familiar enough in Europe but this was another ROH first. She sounds in the process of putting the voice together again after taking a number of roles far too heavy for her and this Leonora was less assured than one heard in Munich a few years back: some ravishing notes, others awkward and strained. She, in common with other principals, arrived with a full wardrobe but had nothing to do with the shreds remaining of Visconti's production: a green and brown autumnal number, Cambridge blue for the wedding, midnight black for prison visiting. They dressed well in old Alfajeria.

Sir Colin Davis was in restrained mood, carefully working his Philips cast into the evening and saving his best for the Azucena/Manrico scenes, in which of course he had his two stars of the night.

John Higgins

Der Widschütz
Royal College of Music

It was Lortzing's wish that his operas should give "a number of honest souls some agreeable hours"; and indeed no one could accuse him of over-reaching himself. The fluent melodies, robust orchestration

and easy, direct responses to the little intrigues of burgher and baron in *Der Widschütz* certainly make few demands on the audience.

But the Royal College's production is a good warning that no one should underestimate the demands it makes on the director. The stock character reactions and attitudes within a totally

undramatic fusion of *singspiel* and *opéra comique* can, after all, be alchemized into a tolerable piece of entertainment if they are handled with some degree of musical and dramatic style.

As it is, both the director, Christopher de Souza, and the designer, Riccardo Isotta, have a rather good line in cliché, as choros and soloists line up with monotonous regularity and

ensembles freeze as each figure stands at a carefully measured distance from the next. If the singers still need to work as hard vocally as Tuesday night's cast clearly did, they might at least be helped to move and group themselves to maximum dramatic effect.

The cast is not without talent, though it becomes something of a test to spot it in these

circumstances. Bryn Seconombe bumbles his way through his buffo bass part as the school-master-poacher perfectly adequately, rising to the vocal demands, at least, of his "3000-thaler" showpiece; Laura Rowley is a warm-hearted, sugary soprano, while the tenor John Graham-Hall gives the most stylish performance of the evening as Baron Krontal.

Antony Shelley, conducting, plays it all out front and shows, when Mr de Souza allows him to, some understanding of the requirements of young singers.

There are further performances, with cast changes, tonight, on Friday and on Saturday afternoon.

Hilary Finch

● Total sales of long-playing records in Britain last year were 57.8m and in 1977 81.7m, not 244m and 332m as stated in Bryan Appleyard's article on Compact Discs yesterday.

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1550 in 1983



José Carreras quelling disbelief, with Katia Ricciarelli

Theatre
John Mills fast and decisiveLittle Lies
Wyndham's

Ever since *The Drunkard* was reformed into *The Wayward Wagon* I have felt nervous about off-Broadway Victorians, and it is a relief to report that the only whimsical thing about Joseph George Caruso's adaptation of Pinero's *The Magistrate* is its title.

There are occasional tall-tale wisecracks and words like "drooling", and the serious manner of implicating the gentlemanly officers of the Malbury Street Court in a protection racket, but on the whole there is no telling where Pinero comes to an end and Caruso takes off. It is some years since I saw *The Magistrate* and I cannot remember whether Pinero went on from stranding the defamestrated Captain Vale in a downpour to bringing the whole balcony down in a thunderclap. But, if he did not, then he should have done.

Above all, Mr Caruso has resisted any temptation to sex the force up. The age-conscious Mrs Pocket is still passing off her grown-up son as a 15-year-old, but he never ventures beyond kissing his piano teacher, and otherwise devotes his hidden talents to fleeing the visitors at cards, and showing his old man a night on the town, where their greatest depravity is drinking champagne on unlicensed premises.

In one respect, though, Tony Tanner's production stands the original force on its head, this being in the treatment of Pinero's title character. Mr Pocket lurches through a hideous string of humiliations, from his night in the Hotel des Princes to his despatched arrival on the magistrate's bench next morning.

As traditionally played, he is a passive figure and a typical British loser. But not as played by John Mills, who may be putty in young Cl's hands but is in masterful control of the comedy. Even when wracked with indecision, or pulled around the stage under a precariously wobbling top, he is fast and decisive, converting wilting embarrassment into actively inventive business.

Offstage for most of the hotel scene, he returns to take charge in the last act, undergoing an amazing transformation from rags to ruffled authority and imposing himself on the comedy with next door for some long-forgotten purpose?

For the first time, as far as I know, Robin Hawdon's comedy seizes on their farcical possibilities. As Bob (Trevor Bannister) sits in his hideously tasteful coffee-and-buff double-windup, Kate (Paula Wilcox) awaits dinner in its equally monstrous avocado-and-khaki replica next door, transformed to a *salon privé* by means of a bed that folds up into the wall and will fold several people up with it during the evening.

He is expecting Mimi, whose services are a birthday present from a kindly friend; she has a computer date with a psychiatrist (Derek Fowlds) too apophoric to go to restaurants. The connecting door is not locked, the brown room

seems clearly the green room's bedroom *en suite*, booked with evil intent; and so the fun begins.

I enjoyed it very much, though the script could do with more wit, cutting and polishing (the acting in Stephen Barry's production is polished already) and the climaxes are not ideally placed. Genre clichés are also much in evidence, especially the sex-nervous male, which is unfunny and covertly sexist. But much can be forgiven for Mr Bannister's entrance disguised as a Sikh cleaner waving a vile-looking lavatory brush, or Mr Fowlds's valiant attempt to stun him with a champagne bottle while draining the dregs of same.

And there is Brian Murphy as Tony the Italian waiter, keeping dinnies and seductions running smoothly with an inextinguishable comic repertoire of expressive gesture that would do honour to Feydeau. As Bob's wife (Mary Maude) joins the merry-go-round, he directs the redoubled female traffic with a mixture of envy and utter disbelief.

Anthony Masters

Birthday Suite
Redgrave, Farnham

Disused doors in hotel bedrooms fascinate me. Sometimes they hide them behind wardrobes, but I am not fooled. Some skeleton-filled cupboard, a room mysteriously locked like Dirty Dick's, or a connexion with next door for some long-forgotten purpose?

For the first time, as far as I know, Robin Hawdon's comedy seizes on their farcical possibilities. As Bob (Trevor Bannister) sits in his hideously tasteful coffee-and-buff double-windup, Kate (Paula Wilcox) awaits dinner in its equally monstrous avocado-and-khaki replica next door, transformed to a *salon privé* by means of a bed that folds up into the wall and will fold several people up with it during the evening.

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Anthony Masters

Law Report July 14 1983

Minister cannot ignore objections

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment and Chelsea County Council, Ex parte Haulton District Council
Before Mr Justice Taylor
(Judgment delivered July 11)

Where a dispute between local authorities regarding the location of a proposed gypsy caravan site had been referred to the Secretary of State for the Environment under section 8(2) of the Caravan Sites Act 1968, the secretary of state was obliged to consider any objection to the proposal on its merits, and it was not open to him to decide so to do on the ground that the dispute was of a type with which he did not wish to be concerned.

Mr Justice Taylor so held in the Queen's Bench Division on July 6, dismissing an application by Haulton District Council for judicial review of a decision of the secretary of state on December 6, 1982 who had directed Chelsea County Council to proceed with the establishment of a proposed gypsy caravan site to which the district council had objected.

Section 8(3) of the Caravan Sites Act 1968 provides: "After considering any objection notified by a district council under section 8(2) the minister may, as appears to him proper, give directions to the council of the county - (a) to stand on the proposal; (b) to proceed with the proposal; or (c) to make an application for planning permission in respect of the proposed use of the land; and any application for planning permission made pursuant to such directions shall be deemed to be referred to the

minister under section 35 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971."

Mr Robert Carnwath for the district council; Mr Simon D. Brown for the secretary of state; Mr Anthony Porter for the county council.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR said that Haulton District Council had given notice to the secretary of state under section 8(2) of the 1968 Act that it objected on several specified grounds to a proposal of the Chelsea County Council to establish a permanent gypsy caravan site within the district council's area.

The secretary of state had directed the county council to proceed, under section 8(3)(b), without dealing with the merits of the objections which the district council had raised.

Joint Circular 28/77 disclosed that the secretary of state's policy regarding such objections was to interfere only if the objections raised more than purely local issues which would be of wider application.

It had been contended for the secretary of state that it was proper for him not to consider "local" objections on their merits at this stage as the only purpose of section 8 was to accelerate the procedure by which he could consider proposals which did raise wider issues; in this case it would still be possible for him to call in the proposal at the planning application stage if the objections warranted it.

His Lordship could not accept such a restricted construction of section 8. It applied only to

proposals regarding gypsy sites, and Parliament, foreseeing likely conflicts, had provided that procedure for resolving them.

The secretary of state could not stater his discretion with a policy which would render the existence of section 8(3) virtually unnecessary and frustrate the policy and objects of the Act. That was the principle which had been established in *Field v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* (1968) AC 997 and which in this case required him to deal with issues raised by a section 8(2) objection on their merits.

It appeared from the recital of facts in the decision letter that the merits of the district council's

objections had not been considered in any detail at all and, although he was not under any obligation to give reasons, if the secretary of state failed to give reasons in such circumstances a court might be entitled to assume that his decision had been based on nothing but his declared blanket policy.

The application would succeed as a *per se* error, and the secretary of state would be required to quash the secretary of state's decision and to require him to consider the district council's objections on their merits.

Solicitors: Sherwood & Co for Mr F. McNaughton, Widnes; Treasury Solicitor; Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr I. T. Kellen, Chester.

Applicant cannot be expected to stay unlawfully

Regina v Hillingdon London Borough Council, Ex parte Wilson

An applicant had not rendered herself intentionally homeless by leaving accommodation in Australia to go temporarily to Australia. The borough accepted that the prospects of getting an extension to stay in Australia were remote and to remain in Australia involved remaining unlawfully and contrary to immigration laws.

Finally, the applicant was pregnant and if she had remained in Australia for a further week, she would have been refused a flight back until she had given birth.

On the special facts of the case, the borough could not reasonably have decided that it was reasonable for the applicant to continue to occupy accommodation.

His Lordship said that it was not suggested that the applicant had rendered herself intentionally homeless by leaving secure accommodation in England to go temporarily to Australia. The borough accepted that the prospects of getting an extension to stay in Australia were remote and to remain in Australia involved remaining unlawfully and contrary to immigration laws.

Finally, the applicant was pregnant and if she had remained in Australia for a further week, she would have been refused a flight back until she had given birth.

No percentage sentence cut for guilty plea

Regina v Williams (Steven)

Although there was ample authority for the proposition that credit should be given by a court passing sentence where there had been a plea of guilty, there was none to the effect that such credit should take the form of a uniform percentage reduction in sentence.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Purvis, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Peter Pain) so held on June 30 in allowing an appeal by Steven Leslie Williams against a sentence of four years' imprisonment imposed by Judge McKinney at Portsmouth Crown Court for offences of obtaining property by deception. The sentence was reduced to one of two and a half years' imprisonment.

LORD JUSTICE PURVIS, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the proposition that a particular percentage reduction in sentence should follow upon a plea of guilty was unsupported by authority.

It had been suggested, citing the commentary upon the decision of *R v Skilton and Blackham* (1983) Crim LR 123, that such reduction should be in the region of 25 per cent.

That was to ignore that sentencing was an individual exercise and had to be tailored to the needs of each particular case. The mathematical approach was therefore unreliable and had never received any approbation from the court.

Television

Political balance

If they have access to the channels on the other side, Lord Churchill, Rab had poured his brandy into his shoe rather than demur. Mr Amery thought this instance, of what some of us might have considered part of the charm of the man, somehow a significant indicator of his character. Possibly Mr Butler was an incorrigible wet, Lord Devlin said that, if he were put to write a political obituary of Rab, he would say that he had "lived by the necessary practices and perished by them". Brains and ability in politics are not enough, nor even, in some cases, brains and ability. Lord Butler left politics for his beloved Cambridge and the Mastership of Trinity. He emerged from retirement to help the Lords defeat a proposal by Mrs Thatcher to charge rural schoolchildren bus fares. He could be dry on occasion. He remains, as he might have been amused to reflect last night, an enigma but, as was also apparent, well loved.

Dennis Hackett

Dance

Homage to Diaghilev
Coliseum

An injury compelled Rudolf Nureyev to drop *Le Spectre de la rose* from Tuesday night's programme at the Coliseum. He has been dancing with a bad foot, then hurt his thigh, and the combination of troubles became too much for him to tackle that ballet with its intense, sustained demands.

However, he did dance two of the most famous male roles from the Diaghilev repertory, in spite of his injury, making a substantial triple bill together with the Ballet Théâtre-Français production of *La Boutique fantasque*, and prompting the thought that perhaps the intended programme would have seemed over-generous, especially on so hot a night.

The tide part in *Petrushka* does not call for any virtuosic steps, but it is quite demanding, all the same, with its falls, its jumping about and never going anywhere at less than a shambling trot. Emotionally, it is even more exigent, and the BTF production by Serge Golovine enables Nureyev to draw on his feeling for the part to maximum effect. Adeline Charpentier is the part little ballerina doll for this revival, with Aliocha Gorki a powerfully muscled, arrogantly stupid Blackamoor. Françoise Michaux as the more successful of the two street dancers also stands out, among a lively cast.

John Percival

Concerts

City of London
Sinfonia/Hickox
St Bartholomew's

The air hung still and heavy around St Bartholomew's Great on Tuesday night; so did the music. There were two distinct sorts of languor in evidence: the pleasantly drowsy English pastoralia of Elgar and Vaughan Williams and the more acerbic but still rather distant ruminations of Alexander Goehr.

It was an ingenious idea to bring together for the first time the three pieces Goehr has based on a setting of Psalm 4. The Romanza is by far the most outgoing of the three, indeed the only one that does not seem completely wrapped up in itself. The Fugue for strings is a dour, almost dogged affair which did not in this performance achieve serenity; the original Psalm 4 setting for voices, cruelly demanding of its two female soloists, cannot quite sustain its hypnotic alternation of chorus, viola-and-organ interpolation and solos. Its rhythmic profile is not strong, and it does not carry the confidence of, say, the Stravinsky Cantata.

Perhaps Goehr simply asks more of his listeners than I gave, requiring us to be content with his limited means and limited expressive ends; still, in the Romanza, where he allows himself to blossom with decorations and disruptions of the original choral lines (now transferred to solo violins and violas), he achieves a much more direct impact. Even in a performance by the City of London Sinfonia which was clearly far from ideal - though Malcolm Layfield led a confident solo quartet - the latent power of the original psalm suddenly seemed to be released.

There was a moment, a couple of minutes before the end, when the rich textures and even the harmonies of Goehr's string orchestra reached a *rapprochement* with the English school; but the moment passed. Among the English miniatures, Holst's Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda stood out as something ambitious and exotic. Until the cruel mishap of a broken harp string, which also broke the concentration, Thelma Holt and the women's voices of the BBC Singers gave a fine performance; Richard Hickox conducted it with a convincing sense of atmosphere which was lacking elsewhere in the evening.

Nicholas Kenyon

LSO/Kubelik
Barbican

Jan Kubelik, who died in 1940, used to be known as the Czech Paganini. That epithet gives some idea of the nature of his Sixth Violin Concerto, written in 1924, which his son Rafael conducted with the London Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday. It is diabolically difficult, although to judge from Yuuko Shiokawa's astonishingly accurate and unfailingly beautiful playing you would not have guessed it. Ultimately, though, its contents are spread rather thinly over a needlessly vast canvas, and the form does not help to hold things together satisfactorily.

Yet the work does not entirely want for ideas or technique. The first movement has some skilfully orchestrated accompaniment, particularly from the wind section, and often the harmony is headily aromatic. And what could have been simplistically sentimental in the Andante is turned into something touchingly plaintive by its chromaticism, although things are rather spoilt by the unsophisticated rhythmic doggedness of the finale. Still, the concerto deserved an airing, and it offered a fascinating glimpse of Kubelik senior's own technical prowess.

Another novelty came in the form of the Tenth Symphony attributed to the late eighteenth-century Czech composer František Adam Mita. Mozart is known to have admired his work and this symphony shows why. There is a similarity between the two in the way that Mita exploits self-expanding ideas, and formal boundaries are not marked by overt interruptions to the music's flow.

Other qualities mark Mita's as an advanced musical mind - to name but two, the delightful second theme given to oboes in the first movement (modified for its return) and the final fugue which hints at a Beethovenian toughness, albeit in the early 1770s. Again the LSO responded vivaciously to Kubelik's direction, and the high horns were especially good in the Allegro.

The challenge of these works obviously stimulated the players for Dvorak's "New World" Symphony, for they gave no mechanical reproduction. Instead there was an intensity of concentration that lent the familiar a rare excitement. I hope they maintain it for the repeat performance tonight.

Stephen Pettitt



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SPECTRUM

Stringfellow

It is not the same as fashion or even the same as taste. All the same, the arts have been affected by changing vogues throughout their histories. Music as much as any art had been formed by fashion - and fortune. Some instruments were lucky: they fitted in with the development of European music, the violin supremely so. Other instruments have been less lucky. The guitar was always a popular instrument for light music, and the lute enjoyed a season of favour centuries ago before disappearing from view.

In this century these two have been reintroduced into the mainstream of musical life. That is the work of a very few musicians. First, as far as the guitar is concerned, is of course Andres Segovia, who will be 90 early next year. A fellow-Spaniard once said that an Englishman playing the guitar was a contradiction in terms. But Segovia himself would scarcely say that, having watched and encouraged one of the few musicians who can be spoken of in the same breath as himself, Julian Bream, one of the great guitarists and - although superlatives are idle in music - almost certainly the greatest lutenist now alive, a man who is English of the English.

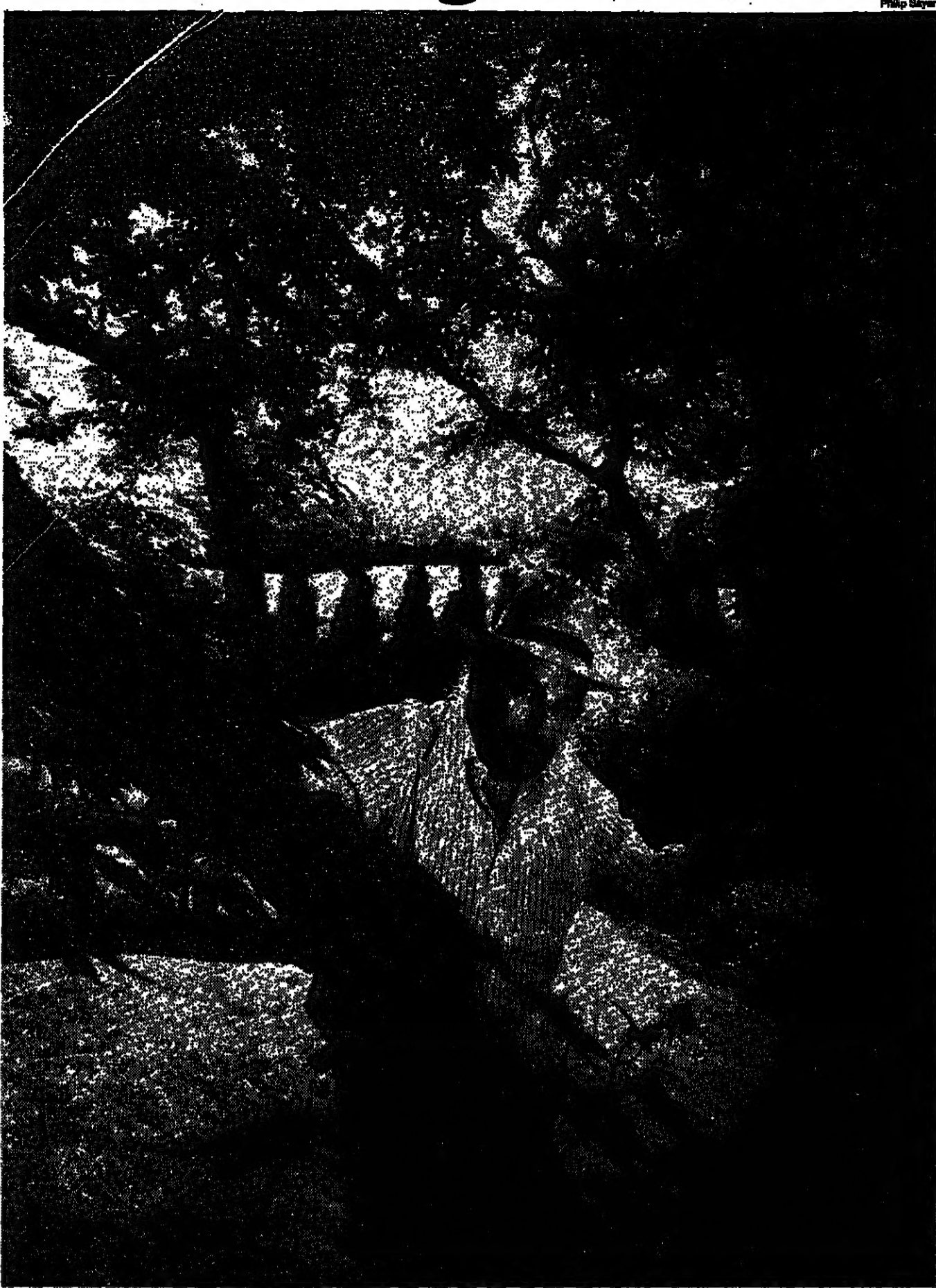
Not English merely, but a Londoner through and through, although now transported to a remote patch of Wiltshire. If you didn't know Julian Bream you might easily think him a London taxi-driver or more likely a publican - no insult, this, to a man who is fond of a drink, although nowadays fine wine more than the beers whose brewing smell so often hang over his native Battersea. He was born there 50 years ago tomorrow, the son of a commercial artist. It was a mixed-up London family, Portuguese Jews by maternal descent. Julian's mother left home when he was 13; he left school the next year, and two years later his father died.

It was not a musical family exactly, but "my father had a gift; he played the piano by ear and he taught me the guitar to begin with". Bream senior wanted his son to do "something more sensible" than become a musician but the boy was precociously brilliant, winning a junior exhibition to the Royal College of Music when he was 12; the next year, 1946, he made his first professional appearance and the year after that he was heard for the first time by Segovia, the man who had brought the guitar out of the shadows as a serious instrument for classical music. Before Segovia, it had for ages been a popular instrument for parlour plucking and in the first quarter of the nineteenth century it enjoyed a great vogue through the connexion with romanticism and the pastoral.

"Schubert had a guitar - it's an amazing thing, but he didn't have a piano in the house - and I'm sure he worked out pieces on the guitar", Bream says. "But the trouble was the guitar was no more than that - something for frivolous family music-making." It was rather feeble in tone then, far to go until its apogee of development, with the result that it missed out when the greatest of all generations of composers might have written for it. "There were great players then in their way but the instrument didn't really have the potential composers needed."

Even in the middle of the twentieth century it was a problematic instrument for a young musician to make his career on. Bream's brilliance was recognized, but where was he to go? In the symphony orchestra - usual first home for most instrumentalists - there are no guitar desks. He still played the piano, and better than the guitar for some years. He also took up the cello; he never really mastered it but the bowed instrument gave him invaluable understanding of how to phrase on a plucked one.

An interlude in the army postponed awkward decisions when he left the



At home in his English country garden, with flowers, books, wine and music

The Times Profile: Julian Bream at 50

Royal College in 1952. He shocked the sergeants of the Pay Corps by turning up in his own little Austin 7 van: squaddies did not have cars then. Despite the frosty reception he signed on as a regular for three years as the only way of becoming a bandsman.

Although he had no affection for the army he had a fairly cushy time, playing electric guitar in the Royal Artillery's dance band (there was of course no place for him in an ordinary regimental band any more than there was in an orchestra) and moonlighting in London. He even played abroad for the first time, driving in his van to Switzerland - strictly against Queen's Regulations - to accompany the singer Frederick Fuller.

Fuller became a regular partner as Bream began his career in earnest. It was hard, but "I was very determined in those days and anyway, it's easier to live on nothing when you're young. I just had my little bedsit in South Ken."

For all that his instrument did not have a large and familiar repertoire, he was soon well known. To begin with he was so broke that he needed an old-fashioned benefit recital - "Segovia gave a tenner" - but work started to come his way. The BBC was a patron which he remembers with especial gratitude, as how many British musicians do not? First were little interludes on the old Light Programme, then the Home Service (five guineas for quarter of an hour), and after that graduation to the Third Programme.

By the time he was in his mid-twenties he had taken flight; he has risen ever higher over the past quarter of a century. His advance came in part because he was taken up by and with the English musical renaissance. The list of those with whom he has worked and who have composed for him is remarkable: Rawsthorne, Sir Lennox Berkeley, Sir William Walton (who

had promised another piece at his death), Sir Michael Tippett, more recently Peter Maxwell Davies, and maybe most especially Benjamin Britten. Bream has given countless recitals accompanying Britten's lifelong companion Sir Peter Pears, in music by Britten and others.

Although substantially the larger part of his working life has been spent playing the guitar, and although he learnt to play the lute comparatively late, it is the latter instrument that he speaks of with greater affection. It may have a smaller repertoire than the guitar but in large measure it is a superior one. The contrapuntal music of the sixteenth century (and later) is so much more intellectually demanding than much of the guitar repertoire by Spanish and other composers of the second rank, if that.

As with Segovia, it is no wonder that Bream has spent so much time arranging great music written for other

instruments. At his birthday recital tomorrow he and his younger confrere John Williams will be playing the arrangement of Schubert's early G minor String Quartet (D 173) which Bream has made for two guitars.

His life nowadays is divided. Part of it is spent touring, as he describes in racy and funny detail in the recent book *Julian Bream: A Life on the Road* by Tony Palmer (Macdonald £8.95). The road mostly leads abroad: about four-fifths of his 50 or so concerts every year are in Europe or further afield. Touring has its problems and its complications. He has to have a quiet and relaxed day when he is playing, with a light meal before the concert and nothing to drink - "The vino comes afterwards." He likes to be paid his fee in cash, which has meant in light-fingered Italy awkwardly playing with his pockets bulged out by wads of hundreds of thousands of lire.

Most of the time he is in his house not a hundred miles from Salisbury, a large handsome farmhouse surrounded by converted out-houses. Julian Bream is a serious musician behind his charmingly unassuming and bucolic manner. He practices and works hard. His day begins at 7.30 with a cup of tea, then half an hour's piano practice to exercise his fingers - this always comes before the guitar or lute - and breakfast and work from 8.30 till noon. After lunch he has a longish walk - in weather as hot as this week's the walk might be before breakfast - and then work again from four till seven.

Wiltshire has other advantages than a landscape of chalk downs. Not very far from Bream's home is the beautiful baroque chapel of Wardour Castle, which has perfect acoustics for broadcasting and recording. (There are also problems. His house is too near a military airbase - as Britten's house at Aldbury was - for silent comfort. And the chapel is not a great many miles away from a large gunnery range: the naked ear cannot pick up the distant gunfire but the recording tape sometimes does.) Mr Bream has the additional happy advantage of a neighbouring guitar-maker.

This is no coincidence. José Romaniños followed him there. Together they have what must be a unique distinction for a great guitarist and a great guitar-maker: the one has a cricket bat made for him by the other. As well as the bat Bream has numerous guitars but normally plays only one. Most guitars, however good, can be played only for so long, then they lose their bloom and their tone grows veiled. The instrument can, however, be rested for a year or so and then nursed back.

Although he lives alone now, with two marriages behind him, Julian Bream is far from a recluse. He has a regular flow of friends to stay, to play music - and not only music. He is a cricket devotee, both as a spectator at Lord's and playing in village matches. Unlike some musicians he has no neurotic care for his physical well-being, although the prospect of a rising ball striking his left hand cannot be amusing. His most serious physical concern is with the finger nails of his right hand. There are various ways of sounding a guitar string, but following Segovia, most players pluck with the nails for greater sonority and brilliance. At the end of Bream's beefy arms and strong though delicate hands are long, tough and carefully manicured nails.

A good part of the time when he is not alone, this hand will be grasping a glass of wine as he talks. Not plonk for a passing oenophilic reporter he cheerfully and most generously opens a bottle of '67 Chateau Latour. For all that he likes touring and concert giving, it is hard not to think that the exiled Londoner is happiest there in his beloved garden with flowers, books, wine and most of all music.

Geoffrey Wheatcroft

moreover...
Miles Kington

Now I know my station in life

I was once brought to a standstill in the late 1960s by an *Evening Standard* placard headline: NUDE POLICE SWOOP. In order to deal with the vision of unclothed policemen wheeling and soaring out of the sky, and swooping on some poor innocent (until proved guilty) victim, I had to come to a physical halt in the street. It was then I noticed the missing colon: NUDE POLICE SWOOP - and could pass on peacefully once more, since which time I have not been brought to a stop by any *Standard* headline. Not, that is, until last Monday when I read the message: LONDON STATION FOR SALE.

It wasn't until that moment that I realized, deep down, that I had always wanted to own a station. This is probably because for four years, between the ages of about 6 and 10, I lived in a station. I went home to sleep and for meals, and I must have gone to school, but the rest of the time I lived in the station, simply because it seemed the best possible place in the world. It was called Gresford; it was a country station and it had everything. It had a level crossing, it had a bridge, it had a signal box and it had buckets hanging up marked FIRE. Behind the station there was a steep hillside with woods which sprouted bluebells in spring and bracken in summer. The other side there were water meadows which specialized in lady's smock and cowslips and through which the River Alyn flowed, though I never found out where to. It had a notice asking passengers to show their tickets at the barrier, and I often wondered why they had to show them and not show them. It wasn't till I was grown-up that I realized railways like using words that nobody else uses, such as "alight", "commence" and "terminate".

Gresford also had trains. I leave mention of them till last because, although at the time I thought I was there to see the trains, I realize looking back that it was the station I loved. I didn't want to be an engine driver when I grew up; I wanted to be a stationmaster. The line it was on was the main Great Western from London to Birkenhead, and Gresford is just beyond Wrexham, on the last bit of Welsh foothill before the rich Cheshire plains are reached. Why my English father wanted to live in Wales I never found out, but the result is that although I had a Welsh childhood, I shall never be able to write about it like a real Welshman, not being one of the tribe, and not being called Gwyn or Thomas or both. The next village over the hill had the real Welsh name of Llay, and the Gresford lads had a long-standing rivalry with the Llay lads, but I never felt really involved.

Someone at Gresford station, one of the porters I think, liked gardening and the main platform had lovely flower beds which one year enticed them to sport a plaque saying: "Best Kept Station of the Year in... Denbighshire? Britain? The world? It was also a base for pigeon racing. Now and again the stationmaster would lug a big basket full of pigeons off a train and leave it lying on the platform. You could hear them making soft noises inside. Where have they sent us this time? Gresford? Never heard of it. Wales? How the hell do we get home from Wales?"

Then the stationmaster would re-emerge, checking his big turnip watch, and at the very dot of the very hour would open the basket. The pigeons would launch forth as if inaugurating the Olympic Games, circle above the station once or twice, feel the cold air coming down from the Welsh hills and shoot off in the direction of wherever they lived, apparently unworried by the thought that as soon as they got there they would be put in another basket and sent off again. Occasionally the station master would find one rebellious pigeon skulking in the bottom of the basket and kick him out, then leave the station to me and the flowers. And the trains. The Castles, the Manors, the Halls, the 0-6-0s, the pannier tanks - ah, what engines they were in those days.

The curious thing is that for 99 per cent of the time there were no trains at all. One was always waiting for the next one. And why not? The whole point about being in a station is just being in a station. The one that has just come on the market, Marylebone, is a little big for my needs but now that I know that's what I want, I can wait.

To work or not to work

The Chancellor's charge that some people deliberately remain on the dole because they calculate they are better off that way comes in the wake of a lively academic controversy on the subject. Firmly on Mr Nigel Lawson's side is Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University who suggests in a recent book, *Unemployment - Cause and Cure*, that 15 per cent of the workforce would be better off unemployed.

The independent Institute for Fiscal Studies, on the other hand, reckons that only about 2 per cent of the work force is in this position. They say Professor Minford has exaggerated the costs of working - fares to work and so on - and underestimated the benefits available to low paid people with jobs.

A related argument adding fuel to the debate over whether unemployment benefits should be cut - for instance by not raising them in line with prices as now - is that the level of benefits sets a (high) floor to

wages and so pushes up general pay levels, pricing people out of work. Professor Minford claims that a 10 per cent cut in benefit would reduce unemployment by 700,000 but a more detailed recent study* by researchers at the London School of Economics, based on data from a government survey, suggests the figure is closer to 90,000. With the number of jobless topping three million this would be small reward for a heavy price in hardship for the families left on the dole.

*Unemployment benefits revisited, by W. Narendranathan, S. Nickel and J. Stern, Centre for Labour Economics, Discussion Paper 153.

Home comforts

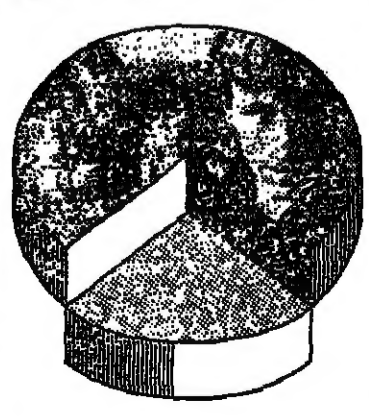
The boom in mortgage lending, which jumped by nearly 50 per cent last year to £14,000m, has not been accompanied by an equally sharp increase in house prices. The reason is that at least half the mortgage money, and possibly more, finds its way out of the housing market and into other consumer spending to finance carpets, washing machines, holidays and the like.

It is not so much that people are cheating - obtaining mortgage funds just for the tax relief. It is an inevitable part of the process. As the Bank of England commented in its *Quarterly Bulletin* last September, every chain in the second-hand housing market has an end. The last house comes on the market because the owner has died, or moved in with relatives, or is sold by the landlord after tenants have left. That cash is not spent on housing. Unemployment may also have

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research:
ECONOMICS

persuaded some people to trade down their houses, releasing cash for consumption. And mortgage money will have gone in large part on home improvements and repairs, and new fixtures and fittings on moving. The Bank reckons that about 50 per cent of mortgage lending now "leaks" into consumption, a much higher proportion than in earlier years. But other researchers put the figure as high as two-thirds.



Dear boys

A quarter of all youngsters under 18 are now without a job, twice the proportion for the workforce as a whole. A Department of Employment study (summarized in its June *Gazette*) backs ministers' claims that part of the problem is caused by young people's wages being too

high compared with experienced adult workers.

During the 1970s youth earnings rose from 47 to 56 per cent of adult earnings, though since 1979 they have fallen back to 53 per cent in 1982. The researchers found that a 1 per cent increase in relative wages cut youth employment by at least 2 per cent, on top of the effects of recession.

The implication is that cutting youth wages would help to price youngsters into jobs. But one snag is that this could mean a lot of adults losing theirs.

Doing it yourself

Self-employment has been one of the few growth industries of the last few years. Between 1979 and 1981, the latest available date, the number of people in business for themselves jumped by 12 per cent - 215,000 - to more than 2 million.

More than 60 per cent are in the service industries, such as shops, the professions, hotels and catering, and garages - with another 12 per cent in farming, forestry and fishing and 19 per cent in the building trades. The main boom area is in insurance, banking, finance and business services - up by 27,000 or 47 per cent. But the June issue of the Department of Employment's *Gazette*, from which these figures are taken tantalizingly provides no more detail. Could this be a

reflection of the explosion in computer services to business?

Yet the growth of self-employment will not be sufficient to replace jobs lost in established firms, according to a study by Peter Johnson of Durham University and John Rodger of the Manpower Services Commission, also reported in the *Gazette*.

They found that only 2½ to 10 per cent of several groups of workers made redundant in the late 1970s has taken the plunge into self-employment. A quarter of those businesses has failed by 1981 and 60 per cent were still employing only one or two people. The study says: "Only 2 (out of 64) employed more than 10 in 1981 and one of these has since failed."

Money puzzle

The case of the missing trade surpluses - \$95,000m (about £62,200m) to be exact, equivalent to a twentieth of all world trade - is baffling the experts. The Bank of England points out in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin* that virtually all the main groups of countries now appear, inconsistently, to be in deficit. But world trade must balance - one country's exports are another's imports. So where has the money disappeared to?

Top of the list of suspects are the undeclared income on overseas assets of investors in the oil-producing states, and the shipping earnings of flags-of-convenience countries. Britain is not the only place where the black economy is booming.

Thin times

The chief economic success claimed by the Government for its first term in office, apart from reducing inflation, has been what it calls the productivity miracle. British industry is demonstrably leaner and fitter now than in 1979, ministers insist.

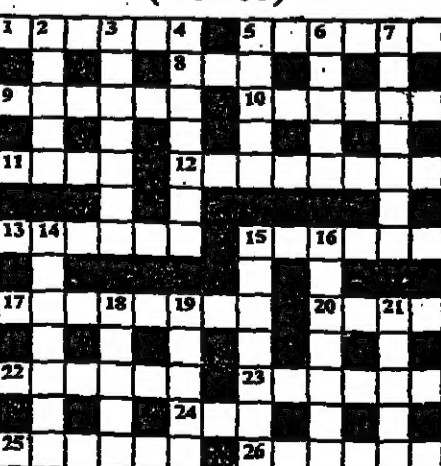
Doubt is cast on this claim by research by John Muellbauer of Nuffield College, Oxford and Dr Lionel Mendis of the London School of Economics. Their work suggests that there was a brief and genuine breakthrough in output per worker between 1980 and 1981. But the main cause was the massive closure of less efficient plants, labour and management.

Most of the gains since 1981 have been no more than those normally expected as output begins to recover from recession and the existing plant and workforce is used more intensively, the research indicates. Once these cyclical improvements are stripped out of the figures, the "productivity miracle" looks less impressive. Muellbauer and Mendis say Britain's long-term productivity growth is unlikely to exceed the sluggish rate of about 2 per cent a year seen in the 1970s unless there is a substantial recovery in investment.

Some indication of how far Britain has to go to catch up with its major international rivals on productivity came last year from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. According to its Review of August 1982, Britain would have to boost manufacturing productivity by 50 per cent to match European levels, by 100 per cent to equal Japan and by as much as 200 per cent to reach the United States.

Frances Williams

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 103)



- ACROSS
- Sharp tool (6)
 - Aimless (6)
 - At the stern (3)
 - Roof tiles (6)
 - Not at sea (2,4)
 - Diving bird (4)
 - Welcome (8)
 - Human mind (6)
 - Been unsuccessful (7)
 - Church bells (8)
 - Hawk's strap (4)
 - Muddled (6)
 - Electrocution (6)
 - Firing weapon (3)
 - Jerry (6)
 - Mechanical device (6)
- DOWN
- Salutation (5)
 - Evil (7)
 - Pasta (7)
 - Expiate (5)
 - Rem again (5)
 - Provide funds for (7)
 - Spoken defamation (7)
 - Verdict (7)
 - Wounded (7)
 - Tooth filling (5)
 - Shelf (5)
 - Extra part (5)
- SOLUTION TO No 102
- ACROSS: 1 Pistol 4 Stripe 7 Tent 8 Volition 9 Observer 12 Gel 15 Union 16 Blasted 17 Fig 19 Everman 24 Oddballs 25 Dice 26 Exceed 27 Anyman
- DOWN: 1 Fish 2 Stumbling 3 Liver 4 Solve 5 Rite 6 Phone 10 Elope 11 Rally 12 Gymnasium 13 Lode 14 Ruff 18 Index 20 Valid 21 Rasta 22 Oboc 23 Cuff

Our old father figure

At first glance King George V appears a rather unexciting monarch - a dull man who lived in highly dramatic times who, with his Queen, appeared in moments of national drama like icons, never changing with the changing decades. bowler

For the first time King George V's pusillanimity over the rescue of the Tsar is laid bare, but treated with that far-minded generosity which is the hallmark of this book. Kenneth Rose is tremendously well versed in the strange complexities of human nature and knows that we all contain several selves. And King George V who could revel in gunroom ribaldry could just as easily feel sympathy and understanding for the deprived, the weak, the disabled, and the unlucky. Like his grandmother he was not sympathetic to high society and hated derogatory remarks about the working classes and in many ways his relations with Labour ministers were both closer and smoother than with all of his other ministers, conservative or liberal. He obviously loved Ramsey MacDonald the most sympathetic of all the Prime Ministers of his reign, and equally obviously Ramsey MacDonald treated the King with more courtesy and more generosity than the rest who tended to bully him for their own party ends, especially in regard to honours.

historian with real style, real nerve. Kenneth Rose is a true literary craftsman as well as a master of sources, and a scholar of judgment. This is historical biography as it should be written.

J. H. Plumb

The Gatehouse, Stanway House, Gloucestershire: an odd stylistic amalgam, with Gothic bays, gables from Holland, and Renaissance chimney-stacks and gateway

(Gollancz, £12.95)

All readers will be amazed at some point by marvellous buildings whose existence they had never suspected - in my case Wroxton Abbey, Oxfordshire, Howsham Hall, Yorkshire and Stockton House, Wilts - and indeed to amaze laymen with the inexhaustible glories of English craftsmanship and architecture is what Clifton-Taylor's work is all about.

Michael Ratcliffe

(Sidgwick & Jackson, £8.95)

Bentley takes much the same view of his homosexual relationships as Mr Justice Wills at his trial. She writes of the years Constance had slept alone "while he had been taking his fill elsewhere in so monstrous a way that he would, she believes,

Oscar's ever-constant Constance

position." But the portraits of Ophelia that emerge from these two very different books are remarkably similar. In both cases, the more one reads, the more one's admiration for her grows. Both explore, convincingly, the canard that she was stupid; both convey her beauty, and her intelligence. In the first, Hamlet's friend, the

Yet the final construction, the finished work, is not there. All that remains is the "innate feeling for elcy", and the shadowy projection of Cyril Connolly's other myth of himself, the genius in exile, permanently about to grant deeds, write great works. "No deputations will fetch me back, no envoys will drag me from my tin table under the fig tree, or my carafe of wine." But in due season, the envoys will come. O Palinurus: they will come with laurel crowns.

Richard Holmes

(Macmillan, £15)

Philip Howard

once crossed the Atlantic on ship where one could drink much red wine at dinner as I wished. This I did. It was on a week I realised that successive carafes, although pleasant in their way, were having very little effect. Fullness of bladder rather than of mind, I traced the wine to its source and discovered the reason. It was powdered. Morley West's novel is of a similar vintage. What seems plausible at the time of reading retrospectively ridiculous. What appears to be the intoxicating effect of the wine is the story of a woman who explores "the nature of evil" and "the complicated logic of guilt" turns out to be a boggy twilight where Dennis Wheatley gropes for D. M. Thomas. The story is based on a prior preference in Jung's autobiography to a lady who came into his office and confessed to a murder. Not much, one might think, but enough to inspire the author to treat a noblewoman who is profligate in her pleasures, foul-tongued in her conversations, and desperate in her need for "Magda's" manipulation for sexual experiment" beyond what she tells Jung on her one visit to him, when her father seduces her, at 16. Incest led

"There is no better recipe for boredom," says West's Jung, "than to go round sex with a legal wife." Jung lovers wherever you are by now - will enjoy Nina Bowden's, chilling if somewhat suburban account of adultery, deceit and enduring female friendship. Daisy and Ruth are childhood friends who get married to men in the same oil company and live in the same street. Shortly after losing his job, Daisy is involved in a motorway accident. By Daisy's reaction, Ruth realizes the marriage has been a wretched one. Till then, "safe in her own happy marriage, she made comfortable assumptions about other people." Not just

In a semi-detached in Hendon, rejoicing in the name of Shangri-La, are discovered the corpses of two old women. One had been dead for up to a year. Flitting back and forth over the century, *When I Was Otherwise* (Bodley Head, £7.95) by Stephen Dedmon is a dark, baffling and the demises. Top-heavy with jabbering dialogue, it is an exhausting story which must be read with patience. As with his last novel, Benatar's obsession with female insanity is rather too accurately reflected in the structure. He is a good writer but is too much on chariot, albeit authentically, the mind's decay.

Nicholas Shakespeare

(Zomba Books, £8.95, paper)

However, in *The Gleanings*, the first of the four novels in this notably value-for-money omnibus, he produced a book that absolutely deserves to live: it is the story of ever-amiable Doc McCoy, a compunctionless criminal whose engaging wit engineers his escape from prison and who with her is hunted, hunts in his turn, kills and kills and kills again whilst yet perversely retaining the reader's sympathy and who ends in a sort of hell described

But Zomba books sink
taneously put us even deeper in
their debt with *Four Novels* by
David Goodis (£8.95 hardback;
£5.95 paper), another '40s and
'50s pulp author who writes at a
high level and with a genuine
romanticism. To this they add
Four Novels by Cornell Wool-
rich (£8.95 hardback; £5.95
paper), better known, more
praised, filmed, but to my mind
so uneven that his claim to that
lasting place must be doubted.

The Lie Direct, by Sara Woods (Macmillan, £6.50). Woods does it again with a tremendously teasing puzzle (How can spy-bigamist be innocent?) and her customary, credible courtroom shakedown.

H. R. F. Keating

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TT6

THE TIMES DIARY

Gone with the deal

BBC television programmes have consistently declined the opportunity to interview Anne Edwards, biographer of Margaret Mitchell, who wrote *Gone with the Wind*, while she is in Britain next week to launch her book *The Road to Tara*. The BBC, you may remember, paid £4.4m in 1980 for television rights to the film. The reason for the reluctance to feature Edwards is simply that the programme producers would all want to interview her with a clip from the film. Yet to do that would cost them another £850, which is beyond their budget. The BBC's £4.4 million deal with MGM allows for clips to be shown only as trailers to complete screenings of the film.

Financial graffiti

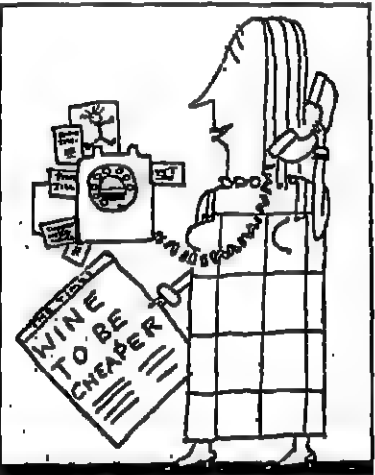
I am glad to see that *The Wall Street Journal* has not been tempted by the absence of its local competition, *The Financial Times*, to compromise its editorial standards to the extent of writing its headlines in English. Two which caught my eye this week have been: "Sling Aims to Cure Idle Handicap, End Noon Nappers' Snooze Blues" (a man has invented a canvas strap to support the arms of cat-nappers) and "Connecticut Lemon Law on Cars Bears Fruit, Consumers Say, but Auto Firms Are Bitter" (a man was able to claim a new car from General Motors after his Chevrolet Camaro was off the road seven times in five months with a faulty clutch). Neither story would I have read had the headline been readily comprehensible.

"All clocks in this station are incorrect," a scrawled notice at Baker Street underground proclaimed yesterday. Above it, one of the clocks in question showed the correct time, to the second.

Bad language

The English on a German sachet of Arya Laya Citro-Bad explains: "It treats the skin, eliminates the cramps, fortifies the organs and the action of their function. Skinfiensers tenders guarantee a deep cleansing."

BARRY FANTONI



Alexander's delighted - he's set his heart on becoming a Journalist

Down the middle

Michael Quinlan, permanent secretary at the Department of Employment, playing cricket for the department against the industrial correspondents, bowled first a wide down the offside, then a ball far outside the leg stump, followed by a dead straight delivery. "He's just the same with me," Norman Tebbit, fielding in the slips, remarked to the batsman. "On the one hand this, on the other hand that, but here is my central submission."

Seering

I owe an apology to the Diary's consultant meteorologist, Arthur Mackins of Bognor Regis. It was with some scepticism that I reported his assertion in February that we could expect a long hot summer. I suggested that you keep the paper in which the prediction was made as it might come in handy to light a fire. Now, Mackins chides me, the paper is likely to catch fire of its own accord in the blazing sun. He promises at least two months' continuation, with the only possible interruption threatened by thunderstorms in an unsettled period from tomorrow until next Wednesday. Prepare the standpipes.

The Irish have solved the difficulty of coping with the confusion between Chris Patten, present under-secretary for Northern Ireland, and his predecessor John Patten, now under-secretary for health. A letter from Jordanstown arrived addressed to: A. Patten, House of Commons.

Causing a stir

An apologetic petty pilferer has returned to the British Airports Authority a teaspoon stolen from Gatwick 47 years ago. It was taken, a covering note explains, while Edward G. Robinson was there shooting *Thunder in the City*. The spoon bears the mark of the airport's original owners, Airports Ltd, and BAA rather doubt they have a use for it.

A chat with my Friendly Bank Manager leaves me smiling. I had phoned to complain about a service charge levied despite my, I thought, comforting balance. Threats to withdraw my custom elicited an offer of a friendly chat over a glass of sherry. Forty minutes, four glasses of sherry and a promotional gift later, I reckon the cost to the bank at over £50. The service charge was £4.66, and I will be paying "Banking is not just about money," says my FBM, obscurely. I had a promise not to name the bank.

PHS

Tim Congdon welcomes yesterday's industrial production figures

How 364 economists can be wrong —with the figures to prove it

Britain is now, as it has been for the last four years, a testing ground for economic ideas. In particular, the debate about whether recovery can develop without government stimulus may soon be resolved. The outcome will be important. It will influence for a long time to come the climate of opinion in which policy-formulation and theoretical analysis are conducted.

The earliest and most fundamental criticism of the Conservative's economic programme was that self-generating revival in business activity could not occur. In early 1981, 364 economists signed a letter to *The Times* which stated as its main point that: "There is no basis in economic theory or supporting evidence for the Government's belief that by deflating demand they will bring inflation permanently under control and thereby induce an automatic recovery in output and employment."

This letter was undoubtedly representative of academic and professional opinion. Most economists in this country have long thought that it is the Government's task to manage the level of demand. They seem to regard the economy as behaving like an obstinate mule which, without the occasional push and shove from extra expenditure or deliberate currency depreciation, will just stand still. In 1981, when the recession was at its worst, they wanted particularly vigorous reflationary measures.

The Government did not oblige. Instead it adhered to a medium-term financial strategy which specified monetary and budget deficits targets for several years ahead. This strategy came in for some sharp criticism, notably from the Cambridge Economic Policy Group. In a newspaper article of September 30 1981, the group's leader, Professor Wynne Godley, said: "There is no hope at all for a sustained recovery if all that happens is that the MTFIS is continued or reconstituted into some alternative mumbo-jumbo".

In his view, the MTFIS had already become "ridiculous". The thinking behind the MTFIS and, indeed the Government's whole approach was that the economy had in-built mechanisms which would sooner or later lead to improved business conditions. Supporters of official policy were not very explicit about what these mechanisms were or how they operated. But one idea was emphasized quite strongly: it was that lower inflation would permit lower

interest rates and lower interest rates would cause more spending.

So who has been right, the majority of academic economists or the Government and the relatively small band of advisers sympathetic to it? Are there signs of a spontaneous recovery? And are they sufficiently numerous and convincing to decide the argument?

The difficulty with the stand taken by critics of the Government is that they failed to explain how the economy had grown in the centuries before the invention of fiscal fine-tuning, demand reflation and the rest of the Keynesian tool kit. A not very thorough examination of economic history until 1940 suggests that output and employment did recover automatically from cyclical downturns. Contrary to the claim of the 364 economists, there is a mass of "supporting evidence" on the issue. The interesting question is what caused business fluctuations in the absence of a meddlesome demand-managing government.

There are many potential answers, but nearly all involve changes in the rate of capital accumulation and in the scale of credit flows to finance investment. It follows that if we are to understand how the economy might recover without government stimulus today, we should look at wealth and credit. By far the largest single capital asset in the economy is the housing stock, while borrowing for house purchase is the biggest financial transaction most people undertake. It seems reasonable to expect the most reliable signs of recovery to emerge in the housing

market. What is happening in this area at present?

The evidence is unambiguous. The years 1982 and early 1983 have seen a remarkable boom in mortgage credit. As the table shows, lending for house-buying soared from £2,491m in the fourth quarter of 1981 to £3,868m in the fourth quarter of 1982 and has been maintained at high levels this year.

Initially the entry of the banks into the mortgage market was one reason for the rapid increase. But they have curtailed their activities recently, allowing the building societies to resume their traditional position as the dominant suppliers of housing finance. Between the first quarters of 1982 and 1983 lending by the building societies more than doubled.

Housing credit influences economic activity through several channels. There is a direct impact on housebuilding and the construction industry. Probably more important, although less obvious, is a boost to consumer demand. Much mortgage credit does not stay in residential property, but instead seeps out into other parts of the economy by a process known as "equity withdrawal". The classic example is an individual moving up-market who increases his mortgage by more than the change in the value of his home, releasing money for the purchase of consumer durables.

Whatever the particular route by which mortgage lending has been diverted from residential property, there is no doubt that the boom in housing credit has been associated with an upturn in consumer

spending. Retail sales in the first half of 1983 have been about 5 per cent higher than in the first half of 1982, car registrations have jumped by almost 20 per cent over the same period. The upturn in demand is now being followed by an increase in output. Industrial production in May was over 4 per cent up on the low point in November last year, while the latest CBI survey was the most optimistic since 1979.

There is still room for a few qualifications, hesitations and doubts, but it seems clear that a recovery has started. The recovery has taken hold without fiscal stimulus. It owes almost everything to a revival in domestic demand which originated largely in the British public's enthusiasm for home ownership and a willingness to translate that enthusiasm into heavy mortgage borrowing; it owes very little, if anything, to an enlarged budget deficit.

To complete the story we need to ask what was responsible for the boom in housing credit. Some institutional changes, such as the bank's new involvement in home mortgages, played a role, but much more significant was a large fall in interest rates.

As this fall proceeded in 1982, the building societies cut their deposit rates less than the banks, pulled in more money and had no trouble lending it to the large number of their customers eager to increase their stake in residential property. The move to lower interest rates would have been inconceivable without a simultaneous decline in inflation.

Have the 364 economists lost the argument? It seems so. The MTFIS may or may not be ridiculous, but it is intact. There may or may not be any basis in economic theory for the Government's belief that lower inflation would lead to an automatic recovery, but that recovery is now fact, not forecast. Although assessments of the success of any economic policy fluctuate almost as violently as the economy itself, optimism about the system's self-correcting properties seems at present to have been vindicated. The open question for the next five years is not "will the 364 economists be wrong?" but "how wrong they will be?"

The author is economics partner of stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

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The boom in housing credit

| | Building societies £m. | Banks £m. | Other £m. | Total £m. | % change |
|---------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1979 | 5,269 | 590 | 731 | 6,590 | +19% |
| 1980 | 5,715 | 500 | 1,177 | 7,392 | +12% |
| 1981 | 6,323 | 2,265 | 1,021 | 9,609 | +30% |
| 1982 | 7,841 | 4,927 | 1,027 | 13,795 | +44% |
| 1981 | | | | | |
| 1st qtr | 1,582 | 250 | 212 | 2,054 | +28% |
| 2nd qtr | 1,844 | 400 | 233 | 2,477 | +42% |
| 3rd qtr | 1,591 | 723 | 273 | 2,587 | +35% |
| 4th qtr | 1,296 | 892 | 303 | 2,491 | +17% |
| 1982 | | | | | |
| 1st qtr | 1,222 | 1,078 | 308 | 2,608 | +27% |
| 2nd qtr | 1,943 | 1,289 | 274 | 3,506 | +42% |
| 3rd qtr | 2,062 | 1,508 | 243 | 3,813 | +47% |
| 4th qtr | 2,614 | 1,052 | 202 | 3,868 | +55% |
| 1983 | | | | | |
| 1st qtr | 2,821 | n/a | n/a | 4,000* | +53% |

Note: % change refers to growth over previous year or same quarter of previous year.

* Estimate

Broader-based, a European view

Continuing our series by contenders for the Labour leadership, Eric Heffer outlines the way he thinks the party should develop

The Labour Party is a democratic socialist party, and it must remain so. From its inception it has been made up of many strands, from the left to the right, united by its desire to build by consent a decent, just and egalitarian society. The party believed and still believes that this can best be done through the public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, with a system of democratic control of industry.

It believes that production should be for use and not purely for profit. The old Christian concept that I am my brother's keeper is at the core of Labour's thinking. It is a caring party.

Because Labour has been defeated and Tory philosophy has temporarily gripped many people, there will be those who would like to see Labour jettison its basic socialist ideas, because, they would argue, they are not vote-winners. I believe in the conveyor theory, i.e. one moves at the speed of the slowest ship, which in my view puts the whole country in jeopardy. Labour must not jettison either its socialism or its compassion, and must continue to fight for greater equality in society. This must remain central to its thinking. What it will need to do is to explain its policies in a more clear and uncluttered way.

The party must build itself into a mass campaigning party. That can be done, and was proved possible in this election when thousands of people, many of them young, from all walks of life, actively worked in the election campaign and in the process joined the party. The base of the Labour Party is the organized working class. The trade unions helped form the party. They are an integral part of it, and without them it would not be the Labour Party.

With the trade unions being a part of the party there is a recognition that industrial and political life are basically one. This unity needs to be further strengthened at all levels, and to those who say Labour should move away from the unions, I reply that way lies disaster. Certainly, there is room for improvement in the relationship between the two. Certainly, some aspects of it require examination, and some old-fashioned concepts need changing, but the basic elements are sound.

Labour cannot, however, confine itself purely to the organized working-class movement. Beyond that there are other groups and strata in society that are, or should be, natural allies. Millions of young people in particular are concerned about peace. They abhor nuclear weapons, they want to see an end to them. Many are in CND, others are not. They should all be working through and in the Labour Party for their objectives.

There are those deeply concerned about ecological questions: they too should be in the Labour Party. The



same goes for those fighting for women's rights. Blacks and Asians continue to support Labour; they must now become an integral part of the party.

The number of manual workers in industry, the hard core of Labour's support, is decreasing. Today, the old communities in which they lived are increasingly being broken up and the new communities that replace them have less cohesion and inner unity. The tribal aspect of society, while lingering in some places, is slowly dying out. Labour must take practical steps to win over these new groups. It must appeal not only to the manual workers, but also to white-collar workers, professional groups and those progressive groups which have clear, one-issue, political objectives.

Some of these latter groups have clearly been attracted to the SDP/Liberal Alliance. They have not yet been convinced that Labour really cares for them because they have been seduced into believing that politics is not about class issues and that politics and political argument are somehow not a good thing.

The Tories in Parliament are being exposed for what they are, and Labour must continue to expose

them. They, with their policies of turning history back, of undermining the welfare state, of non-intervention in economic and industrial affairs, of supporting reactionary regimes abroad and of advocating reactionary policies at home, must clearly be the main political enemy. But if they are to be turned out of office at the next election, then Labour must also turn its attention to winning support from those who have temporarily been won over to vote Alliance.

The truth of the matter is that in the last election, the Tories did not really win. It was the Alliance which helped to keep them in office. Votes which would have gone to Labour went to the Alliance, and in seat after seat the Labour candidate was defeated because of the Alliance intervention. The Tories are in office even though the country voted overwhelmingly against them. Labour's job between now and the next general election must be to win back that vote.

We must not allow ourselves to be deflected into debates or arguments about proportional representation. That will not come about. The real task is to build up the party, appeal to the workers and a wider public and concentrate on victory.

As for changes in policy, naturally we cannot go on, parrot fashion, saying all the same old things. But Labour's defeat does not mean that the policies were wrong, although they were not properly got over to the public. It is clear however, that some of them need revising. There must be, for example, a greater emphasis on building up contacts among European socialists and trade unionists. The issue of Britain's membership of the EEC cannot now be a central question, certainly not in the foreseeable future. The emphasis must be on producing policies by all socialists in Europe for full employment, control of the multinational, planning the continent's resources in the interests of the people and not allowing Europe to become, like the USA, the home of unbridled free enterprise.

What we really need is to work towards a Europe that reflects the bureaucratic concepts of the Soviet Union, where political democracy is non-existent, and the totally free enterprise system of the United States, where money rules. Europe was the cradle of modern civilization. It can be the model for democratic socialism, and that should be Labour's objective. In the past, many diverse politicians have advocated a Socialist United States of Europe, a concept which has been overlooked or pushed aside, but one which I believe has a great deal to commend it. One thing is certain: the type of just society that Labour wants cannot be built in isolation.

That applies equally to the campaign against nuclear weapons. Labour's policies on this are correct and need to be extended to Europe as a whole, with the objective of creating a European nuclear-free zone. While working within Nato, Labour must work for the ending of both the Nato and Warsaw Pacts, so that the frontiers of war can be rolled back.

Mrs Thatcher has faced the country with a stark choice. The Macmillan "middle way" has been destroyed. The future is either to have democratic socialism or for the country and Europe to sink further into the morass of unemployment, capitalist concepts, conflict and confrontation.

Labour has to develop a renewed socialism, one which rejects bureaucratic all-pervading state control and replaces it with a non-state socialism which develops self-management with a greater involvement of the people.

The struggles for the future of Britain are going to intensify. Labour needs a strong, dynamic, vigorous and intelligent parliamentary leadership, but it must also accept that extra-parliamentary activity will increase. This would be in keeping with British tradition, and those Labour councils and trade unions finding themselves in conflict with Thatcherism must be given support.

Labour's future is as a fighting, democratic socialist organization. It is that or it is nothing. If it builds such an organization, appealing to the workers and beyond, a Labour government at the next election is assured.

The author, MP for Liverpool, Warrington, is Opposition spokesman on Europe.

Next: Neil Kinnock

Ronald Butt

Lawson, shooting in the gloom

The new Chancellor of the Exchequer's cash-saving and cash-raising exercise to cover some of the Government's over-spending in the current financial year has found few supporters enthusiastic enough to cheer him for getting his judgment precisely right.

Those who thought that Sir Geoffrey Howe's budget judgment was too tight for spending and borrowing in the current financial year, naturally agree that his successor could have afforded to accept the potential extra £2,000m to £3,000m in public sector borrowing.

The City, on the other hand, has tended to feel that Mr Lawson's correction was enough to signal alarm that the Government's monetary policy was somewhat awry but not enough to remove the reasons for anxiety. Either the cuts should have been larger or the Government should have been willing to come more quickly to the gilt-edged market for the money it needs to borrow at the "right" price.

What the Chancellor has done has admittedly been small by comparison with the possible - but not yet certain - dimensions of the problem. He has, in effect, imposed only £600m of genuine spending economies. The sale of assets is not a genuine economy. Indeed, in strictly monetary terms, it is not distinguishable from an issue of gilt-edged, and it is arguably less satisfactory than an issue of gilt-edged, since, leaving aside the desirability of privatization per se, this amounts to disposing of capital assets for the specific purpose of covering current spending.

So perhaps, on a strictly monetarist argument, the Chancellor should have raised more like £1,500m from straight economies. It is not hard to see why the Cabinet would have found this politically unacceptable. More important, it is still early in the year to make slashing cuts in anticipation of an end-year over-spending the size of which is at this stage still unpredictable. Indeed, mid-year public sector cuts have usually been regarded as impracticable, which makes it all the more significant that Mr Lawson has attempted them in an attempt to change the psychology of public sector managers.

What has emerged from this episode is how inadequate is the evidence on which Mr Lawson has made his adjustments and, as a result, the Treasury is now investigating with the departments how in future to monitor expenditure through the year. More specifically, it is clear how little is known about the state and purpose of local authority spending, which now appears to have been the principal cause of the borrowing problem which confronted the new Chancellor.

Whereas central government borrowing in this current financial year rose by £2,300m, only £500m of this - almost exactly equivalent to the Chancellor's spending cuts - is

accounted for by central government's own excess of spending over revenue. The rest is accounted for by the central government's lending to local authorities and to nationalized industries.

The Treasury does not know to what extent this money represents capital or current spending, although the overall picture will be clearer when the first quarter of this financial year's public sector borrowing requirement is published next week. In other words, last Thursday's announcement of spending cuts was made, if not in the dark, at least in the half-light of knowledge - which is the principal justification for Mr Lawson's caution in not cutting more at this stage.

Had he done nothing, he would have risked seeming indifferent to the prospect for keeping inflation down in 18 months to two years time, which is what principally determines market attitudes to sterling and interest rates now and in the coming months. Just as the stringency of 1981 led to the present success in curbing inflation (and creating the basis of economic recovery) so laxity now could sow the seeds of renewed inflation in 1985. But the danger was equally of over-reaction, for it is by no means impossible for demand controlled expenditure to contract later this year, and for the total outturn of public spending to be less than is now predicted.

The battle for next year's departmental spending programmes will be a hard one, but the immediate question is whether enough has been done this year to stave off a rise in interest rates here. In the last analysis, everything will depend on what happens in the US but a rise in the rate of interest there is more easily resisted if there is confidence in our own domestic economy.

For all these reasons, Conservative MPs are generally disinclined to cavil at Mr Lawson's judgment, but they are rightly worried about the lack of information behind it, and particularly about the extent and purposes for which local authorities can borrow from the Government more cheaply than they can from the banks.

With our borrowing as a proportion of our gross domestic product in constant decline, and our recovery comparing favourably with that of other western countries, they do not want to see capital spending and industrial recovery sacrificed to demand-led and local authority spending. Nor do they want a replica of the 1972-73 property boom.

A full and early statement on local authority spending is needed. It should go without saying that Mr Lawson's skill at the Treasury will be assessed by his success in preventing inflation without preventing recovery as well. But more than Mr Lawson's own reputation is at stake. The Government's prospects of a third parliament in which Mrs Thatcher's concept of a new and free society finally takes root is at stake as well.

Paul Jennings

Getting nowhere is all the fun

What is to happen to the old West London Air Terminal in Cromwell Road, near the Piccadilly Line goes all the way to Heathrow? At present it houses various airline offices, but surely it retains enough of the mysterious atmosphere of arrival and departure, of beginnings and endings, to deserve a better end than that (as one rumour has it) of being put to merely commercial use by Sainsbury?

It's probably just an accident that ever since the Piccadilly extension opened I always seem to have been taken to Heathrow in the cars of kind London friends. Yet I had the same friends in the days of the West London Air Terminal (was there an East London terminal as well?) and I always seemed to be humping a heavy suitcase up that ramp just too far from Gloucester Road tube station. I'm sure the extension is all that it should be. I imagine smart new escalators coming up right in the middle of Heathrow with awful shops of scarves, Churchill figurines, children's police helmets and huge paperbacks by Robert Ludlum (have made date to read him, in the year 1984).

But has it got the - well, the otherness that the West London Air Terminal had? Would it not be better if there were coaches on Piccadilly Line trains which you could enter only if you had an airline ticket? Ordinary commuters would peer in enviously at jolly laughing people with smart matching luggage sipping duty-free miniaures or wonderfully aromatic coffee.

The West London Air Terminal may have been hard to get to but it did bring something of the mystery, the slight frisson that air travel still gives most of us (I mean, fancy drinking gin and tonic while you look down on Mont Blanc). Once you had done all the checking-in and went down those cinema exit concrete steps into those buses you were already on another plane, at least metaphorically.

Has it not occurred to the authorities that to give this place over to mere cornflake commerce would be a dreadful sacrilege against the genius loci, the whole Cromwell Road atmosphere?

For this is unique in the world as the road of museums, and the West London Air Terminal could be turned into the final, cumulative glory of a marvellous symbolic order starting right back in Knightsbridge. First comes Harrods, bursting with all the material things needed for this life; then Brompton Oratory,

reminder of the spiritual, last refuge from rock 'n' calypso hymns; then the V & A, tremendous witness to the achievements of dead artists; then, housed in huge, yellow-brick buildings like grammar schools for giants, the vaster time-scale of geology and evolutionary science. And finally (so far) the Aeronautical Museum, full of flimsy contraptions with thin oilskin wings, many wires and struts, reminder that obsolescence is now going faster than we are.

But the trend in museums today is from passive to active, indeed one of the new commercial ones is actually called *The London Experience*. Is there not a golden opportunity at Cromwell Road to make provision for modern people who feel in some vague way that the only escape from a "reality" - either prosaic or terrifying, is not through religion or art or music or any of the traditional routes to the wonderful, but through air travel, to have - well, to have *The Cromwell Road Experience*?

It is not the destination, however exotic it's the flying there, and even more, the air-terminal feeling of leaving left ordinary life behind, that people want. They needn't even bring heavy suitcases, these would come with the tickets to the whole thing, bought at Gloucester Road tube station. Probably £2 each.

Then there would be the business, as before, of getting across the roaring traffic with it, walking up the long ramp, checking in.

But there would be subtle differences, a sense of the place somehow being simultaneously London and not-London.

There would be more than a hint of primitive cargo-cult religion, with crudely painted effigies of pilots and stewardesses on pedestals at the tops of stairways and escalators. There would be stalls with newspapers from all over the world but only the *Sun* from England, and of course all the works of Robert Ludlum and Shere Hite. Then, gently, past red damask ropes and through gleaming turnstiles, past security men and metal detectors, people would go down those steps into a bus-simulator, with back-projection of the entire route from Kensington to Heathrow, then out into a Boeing 737 simulator, and a three-hour "flight".

The last exit would lead to the original bus-ports. And the heavy suitcases? People would take them back to Gloucester Road tube all right. There would have been a £25 deposit.



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THE FORTRESS FACTOR

The draft report on future policy for the Falklands published yesterday by the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee once again shows what a useful service can be provided by Select Committees. Naturally the Chamber of the House of Commons will remain the ultimate place where the Government's policies are tested, as well as the spirit and cohesion of the governing party. However, much of the raw material which should inform those debates will have to come from the proceedings of Select Committees, such as with this report. The future of the Falklands should rightly continue to exercise the minds of MPs, even if the position in the South Atlantic provides no foreseeable grounds for any likelihood of early change.

Sir Anthony Kershaw's draft report recognizes certain underlying factors about the Falklands, and argues in favour of the recognition of others. The basic claim to sovereignty is accepted as not proven either way, and thus less proven for Britain than the Foreign Office would assert. However, the Argentine claims - have been seriously prejudiced by its unwarrantable resort to force last year, in breach of every accepted principle of international law. Until Argentina completely renounces the use of force, therefore, her claim cannot be seriously considered.

That is the Committee's view, but that is not in itself enough. The Argentine claim cannot be seriously considered simply because it is reiterated. There are respectable international procedures for adjudicating on claims of sovereignty. Argentina should either use them or recognize that it has no better position in law, and possibly a worse one, than the British Government, which thus has no

need to respond to the claim, except when it is pursued with force.

The Committee also states that no change in the situation in the Falklands should be agreed without the fullest consideration of the views of the islanders. That is the minimum commitment that they should expect from the Government.

The Committee goes on to explore what changes there could be. Integration within the UK? Independence? Trusteeship? Leaseback? As a provision of the Antarctic Treaty? Or as a multilateral defence base in the South Atlantic? The merits and demerits of each option are considered. The Committee concludes that of them all the leaseback proposition, extending over a span of several generations of islanders, should be kept under the closest consideration as a possible device for securing the long-term future of the islanders at lower financial and diplomatic costs to the United Kingdom. But not yet. The legacy of distrust and enmity created by the Argentine invasion and occupation, the unpalatable nature of the Argentine regime and its continuing belligerence not only rule out such considerations for the time being, but make it imperative that Britain maintains the firmest posture of deterrence and defence of the islands.

These are respectable considerations for members of Parliament, but they have a major weakness as a basis for policy in a government. The committee concludes that, since the Argentine claim is not likely to go away, it will have to be conceded. It bases this conclusion on the supposition that the defence burden will otherwise become intolerable. No sentiment could be more conducive to encouraging Argentine

intransigence than to take this line.

The committee's fallacy is to consider that the defence burden will automatically become intolerable. It will indeed be an additional burden on Britain's defences. That might cause the actual contribution to the European theatre to be lightened. What is overlooked, however, is the considerable strategic advantage of a continuing British presence in the South Atlantic.

In the United States there is a division of view about the need to mend fences with Argentina and the fear of upsetting Britain in the process. In November, when Argentina should acquire a civilian government, it will be necessary for Washington to make friendly representation to Buenos Aires, which will probably include some arms deals. Arms sales may be a necessary element for forging a new relationship between Washington and Buenos Aires. The weapons concerned must not alter the current balance of power over the Falklands, but provided that can be arranged, Britain should not protest. The only hope of more amicable future relations between Buenos Aires and London must lie in a triangular relationship with Washington. That might encourage a gradual understanding in Buenos Aires that Argentina's strategic interest in the South Atlantic is best served by multilateral conversations and agreements and not by an obsessive persistence with the claim to sovereignty over the Falklands. Then - but only then - it might be possible for Britain to contemplate leaseback arrangements in which the juridical change would not in any way undermine the security of the Falklands and Britain's capacity to guarantee it.

THE SHORT-SIGHTED STREET

On a clear day in Fleet Street you cannot often see tomorrow. It is the fate of the *Financial Times* to be out of print at present, struggling with a dispute which has dragged on now for 40 days. But it might be any other house. The plethora of negotiating bodies, each and any one of which can halt production of any issue of any paper on any night - at *The Times* there are 35 such bodies - when coupled with a congenitally cavalier attitude to agreed procedures, and aggravated by the failure of the printing trade union leadership when challenged to exercise that leadership to the full over its members, that creates conditions of total instability.

If ever the nation needed an example of the trade union leadership paralysed by its own impotence - or at least by its lack of will to enforce its writ - the dispute at the *Financial Times* provides an unedifying illustration. It has become a commonplace to blame Fleet Street managements for the chaos in Fleet Street, on the grounds that "they do not manage". Certainly many managements have surrendered their prerogatives far beyond any prudent degree, to a point where they neither hire, fire or take primary responsibility for the general deployment of many of their workers. To that extent they do not manage. In the case in question at the *Financial Times*, however, that criticism does not apply.

Here was a management operating in an orthodox manner, respecting procedures which were then flouted on the shop floor. It called in the trade union leadership, including Mr Len Murray. They endorsed the

exercise in mediation and Mr Murray, on behalf of the TUC, said he hoped both sides would respect its findings. Mr Wade of the NGA said that the union would give it most earnest consideration and agreed that the target date for concluding negotiations should be 3 July.

In the event, the paper has not restarted publication. What response has there been from Mr Murray and the other trade union leaders? The answer at present is very little. As hitherto, disruptions in Fleet Street are shown to flourish because trade union leaders cannot, or will not, put their own house in order. The *Financial Times*, though the latest victim, is merely one more in a long saga of trade union inability to deliver its members.

It is difficult for other newspapers to help the *Financial Times*, much more difficult than it is for other members of the NGA to help their colleagues there by subscribing a weekly £5 levy from pay-packets of several hundred pounds per week. It may sound like crocodile tears for another newspaper - and one certainly engaged in some direct competition with the *Financial Times* - to bewail the absence of its competitor. But apart from the transitory benefit of advertising revenue coming here in default of a home at the *Financial Times*, there are distortions to our sales pattern, and a general lack of clarity to the commercial picture, which are not welcome.

On a higher level, moreover, it is not comforting for any Fleet Street house to witness the ease with which any Fleet Street

workers can bring the whole edifice tumbling down. We come in to work each day with no guarantee that one or other of the many trade union chapels will not conspire to halt production. When the bell tolls for the *Financial Times* it tolls for us all.

There are only three conditions in which Fleet Street can ever see beyond its nose, even on a clear day. The first is for the trade union leadership to acquire the authority and will to deliver its members to honour agreements. That is sadly lacking to date. The second is for Fleet Street managements to introduce a system, such as a layoff clause in their working agreements, which would prevent small groups of workers being able to hold the whole company to ransom because it has to continue paying all its other workers during their period of enforced idleness. If a layoff clause is impracticable then binding contracts should be considered which have the sanctity of contracts and would thus carry penal consequences for any breach.

Finally the performance of the National Graphical Association in the dispute at the *Financial Times* has shown once again that it is not entitled to be entrusted with monopoly control of the new technology knocking on Fleet Street's doors. It is not entitled to insist on this monopoly, nor is it systematically necessary. Mr Joe Wade recognized that fact in his speech to his annual meeting two years ago; but his members do not yet seem to have absorbed the message.

EASTERN APPROACHES

The Japanese-Soviet talks which open today in Moscow are more likely to emphasize the growing tensions between the two states than to initiate any reduction in arms. Since last November when Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone became leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and prime minister, Japan's relations with the United States have improved, while existing differences with the USSR have been exacerbated. Moscow blames the deterioration on "Japanese militaristic trends stimulated by US imperialism" but the real causes are to be found in the policies of the USSR and its inflexible attitude on issues of great concern to Japan.

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko has claimed that Japan and its territorial waters are "crammed" with US nuclear weapons, and Moscow objects strongly to the planned deployment of American F-16 fighter bombers in northern Japan. But the Japanese have felt increasingly vulnerable because of the massive expansion of Soviet military power in the Pacific area; they have initiated a modest growth in the defence

budget which remains less than one per cent of GNP. Soviet offers at the Geneva negotiations that the USSR would reduce the number of SS-20 missiles in Europe by transferring some beyond the Urals are quite unacceptable. Tokyo believes that more than a hundred SS-20s are already deployed in the eastern territories of the USSR.

Moscow has repeatedly attacked Mr Nakasone for stating his intention of turning Japan into an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" but of course has failed to acknowledge his reason for doing so: the need to stop Soviet submarines and Backfire bombers violating Japanese territorial waters and airspace.

Since even the largest opposition party, the Socialists, received only a third of the number of seats won by the Liberals in the June elections to the upper house of the Diet, Mr Nakasone can expect to continue his policies of strengthening defences and promoting closer ties with the United States.

The leader of the Japanese delegation in Moscow, Mr Shozo

Kadota, is the head of the Foreign Ministry's United Nations department and is expected to raise the issues of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam, which have both been condemned by the UN. But matters closer to home are likely to lead to even more heated discussion.

The USSR has reinforced its military bases in the four disputed islands, lying to the north of Hokkaido, which the USSR occupied in 1945 and claims as an inalienable part of the Soviet Kurile chain. Tokyo continues to demand the return of its lost northern territories.

As a consequence of the Soviet military build-up and aggressive policies in Afghanistan and elsewhere, the USSR has lost valuable trade with Japan. Rather than stridently accusing Tokyo of "militarism", the Soviet leaders should reflect on their isolated position in the world. It is not by chance that Nato countries, China and Japan share a mistrust of Soviet intentions and a consequent determination to strengthen their defences.

Putting financial world to rights

From Mr A. J. Fox

Sir, The burgeoning scale of sovereign debt to the international banking community is such that, sooner or later, this debt will have to be recognized for what it is: permanent funding of the kind normally associated with the national debt.

It follows, therefore, that these loans should be converted into bonds for which both interest and redemption provisions should be under the regulation of the IMF. After a suitable period, in which it would be hoped that interest would be reliably met, trading in the bonds should be permitted on the major world bourses, thus allowing the banks eventually to restructure their sovereign exposure.

It is another matter whether or not the international banks would welcome converting part of their loan portfolio into "Argentine Everlasting" or "Polish Perpetuals", but a solution managed by the appropriate international agency would be preferable to recurrent rescheduling crises.

As for the debtor countries, they will not be allowed to follow the example of Britain, which even now has £2.6bn outstanding in irredeemable (undated) low-coupon gilts whose original owners must regard the UK Government as being in default, but not, of course, legal - default.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. FOX,
7 Brambles Park, Bramley,
Guildford, Surrey.

Western defence

From Mr Lionel Bloch

Sir, Ever since the US agreed to carry most of the burden of Western defence, we had to put up with the unseemly spectacle of European weapons carping at the military efforts of successive administrations from the comfort and security provided by the American nuclear umbrella.

The latest example is your anonymous profile (feature, July 8) of the Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy, Mr Richard Perle.

Even his expertise and brilliance are only acknowledged in order to emphasize the *ad hominem* sneering. His crime? A determination shared by every senior member of the Reagan Government, to stand up to Soviet expansionism and not be fooled by bogus disarmament postures.

Mr Perle is allowed a few sentences about the inordinate increase in Soviet missiles since 1972. As the argument is unanswerable, no attempt is made to answer it. Indeed, no evidence is offered to substantiate the snide criticisms of the policies which he articulates. Instead there is abuse: "The Darth Vader of the Pentagon", "The Cold Warrior", "The Prince of Darkness", "Only Doctor Strangelove and the Apocalypse are somehow omitted."

His pleas for higher standards of arms control - the *sine qua non* of any meaningful disarmament negotiations - are belittled as "his standards".

Of course, Perle has enemies: unilateralists whose fantasies collapse under his lucid scrutiny; bankers who are concerned about their wobbly loans to Eastern Europe; churchmen to whom an accommodation with the Communist regimes seems the most important thing; and miscellaneous wets and appeasers. It is a matter of some regret that *The Times* should, at least in this instance, appear to join their ranks.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH,
9 Wimpole Street, W1.

De minimis

From Mr Andrew Webb

Sir, The article by Frances Gibb (Spectrum, July 4) rightly points out that criminal legal aid is often abused by all concerned in the judicial system and often results in an extravagant waste of taxpayers' money.

To illustrate the point further: I recently acted for a 31-year-old woman, with no previous convictions, who stole two packets of peanuts, value 48p, from a shop. The registrars were of the opinion that they needed to know more about this woman before sentencing her and so the case was adjourned for reports.

Legal aid was granted and the end result was that the woman was given a conditional discharge. The legal aid cost of preparing that case and representing that woman came to £262.85.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WEBB,
26 Bellevue Crescent,
Clifton Wood,
Bristol, Avon.

State safety net

From Mr Derek Osborne

Sir, It is sad to read in your leading article, "The safety net state" (June 27) an encouragement for the resurrection of the every man for himself ethic in a field of social democracy where, after many years' thought and effort, we had managed to eliminate the need for individual and commercial usury and competition.

There are so many other areas in which these factors depress the unprivileged and stimulate the arrogance of the privileged and some of us may move from one group to the other more than once that it was refreshing to witness the patient growth of a caring society.

You trot out the monetarist statistics about the cost of universal service as though they were dismissable enough. But you fail to examine the alternative cost in human misery which our past experience records so fully. The test of a benevolent society is when most

Change in the nature of marriage

From Dr J. Dominian

Sir, The proposed changes in the divorce law and the Church of England's consideration of remarriage in church have once again focused attention on marriage and divorce.

In the last 25 years there has been a 600 per cent increase in divorce and there is much debate about the causes, consequences and what course of action should be taken. We are about to see another round of this discussion insofar as it affects the plight of children, the financial disposition of the spouses, and the Church's attitude to marriage.

It seems unlikely that a coherent policy for the future will emerge until society faces the fact that we are witnessing a profound change in the nature of marriage. The name remains the same, but its inner world is changing from being primarily a permanent contract, in which the children and their welfare were its main concern, to a relationship intended to be permanent, in which companionship, equity and personal fulfilment are becoming just as important as the welfare of children.

The viability of marriage is increasingly reflecting the ability of two people to meet each other's minimum social, physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs. The gap between the previous expectations and the current ones, assisted by preparation, education or support for the changes, has been filled by divorce.

Until society accepts this transformation in marriage, which is occurring at different rates throughout this country and the whole of Western society, it will remain helpless before divorce, with its large-scale human suffering and the cost to the state of upwards of £1bn annually.

It is important that the Government, churches and society join forces to make use of the available facts, whilst encouraging more research to integrate nationwide programmes for both church and state marriages which aim to give adequate preparation before marriage and effective support to the unfolding relationship afterwards.

A co-ordinated plan is needed for education, prevention and early effective intervention at the start of difficulties. The basic ingredients for such a policy exist if all concerned show the will to grasp the challenge presented by one of the most profound changes in the fabric of society.

Yours faithfully,
J. DOMINIAN, Director,
Marriage Research Centre,
Central Middlesex Hospital,
Acton Lane, NW10,
July 12.

From his Honour Lyall Wilkes
Sir, For over 18 years on the Bench until my retirement last year, I have dealt almost every day with some aspect of divorce and the consequential travail of custody, access and financial applications, so that what follows is the result of that experience.

The attempt by the courts under the present rules to place the parties

in the position they would have been in had the marriage not broken down may have been impossible to achieve, but it kept before the courts the vital principle that there should be no "offensive disparity" between the standard of living of husband and wife before the divorce and after.

It is now apparently proposed that the "no offensive disparity" principle should be replaced by the doctrine of "the clean break" and the "no meal ticket for life" principle, so that the husband who made his marriage vows for life is to be allowed, or encouraged, to free himself of all obligation to his wife after the wife's period of "rehabilitation" is ended.

This reduction of marriage to a contract limited in time - and a very short time where there are no children - seems to me to be offensive in itself, for if anything is certain it is the easier you make divorce the more divorce you will get. Is that really what Church and Parliament want?

But even with the present disparity doctrine what so often happens is that, with half the proceeds of the matrimonial house sale, the wife still has not enough money to buy a house, and since she is not earning enough (and often nothing at all) she cannot obtain a mortgage and so is compelled to go into a council house or flat: the husband on his earnings does obtain a mortgage and buys a house or flat.

The wife, or ex-wife, and children are therefore left with a depreciating asset, the rent increasing every year, whilst the husband, or ex-husband, gets his feet once again on the property ladder and has an appreciating asset. At once the gap opens between the standard of living and the environment of the children of the first and second marriage.

The ex-husband is under pressure from his second wife to do only the minimum for his first family; the court orders for the first family are too low because the courts generally pay too much attention to the new domestic burdens the ex-husband has quite voluntarily assumed on his re-marriage, without thought as to whether he can discharge his obligations to his first family.

To be encouraged by Parliament to think it is possible to "wipe the slate clean", to pretend that your mistake never happened, or should have no unpleasant long-term consequences, is much in accord with today's fashionable flight from personal responsibility and responsibility for choice. Both husband and second wife entered into their marriage with their eyes open as to the husband's prior obligations.

And what if, years after the divorce, the ex-husband much improves his position in the world? Under the present "no disparity" principle this can be taken care of. But under the banner of "no meal ticket for life", this cannot be dealt with.

Yours faithfully,
LYALL WILKES,
Dissington Garden House,
Dalton,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
July 7.

EEC accountability

From Mr Harry Salter

Sir, It is a pity that even among members of Parliament (Sir Anthony Meyer, July 2), there is still a misunderstanding of what can be done for the United Kingdom by simply increasing the size of the EEC budget.

There should certainly be such an increase or the Community will grind to a halt. But to say, as Sir Anthony does, that there would be a significant financial benefit for the UK from an expanded regional policy is to ignore the facts.

The UK at present gets 24 per cent of the EEC Regional Fund and contributes overall about 24 per cent of its cost net benefit. However, additional expenditure is financed from the VAT element of the contributions of member states, where the UK's share is about 21 per cent, so one can argue that an increase in the fund would benefit the UK, but only by about three units for every 100 units of additional expenditure.

It is highly unlikely that Italy, Greece and Ireland (the other main beneficiaries from the fund) would agree that we should get more than

the present 24 per cent and, indeed, when Spain and Portugal join our share, under the present method of calculations, will drop to about 20 per cent and our share of financing the cost will increase. We are not the poorest of the poor in the Community and will be even less so when Spain and Portugal come in.

Enlarging the EEC budget, although desirable in itself, is not the answer to the UK problem. The financing side has to be rethought so as to bring the contributions of member states more in line with their capacity to pay. If there is not agreement to that, then either the other member states have to agree to continue the ad hoc rebates which we have had for the past four years or we regard our net contribution (only about £10 per head of the UK population) as a reasonable price to pay for membership of the Community.

Certainly the issue must not be seen as one which would call into question that membership.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY SALTER,
63 Rue Cardinal Tournier,
1040 Brussels,
Belgium,
July 4.

Dr Banda's 'Eton'

From Dr Ian Michael

Sir, Michael Horasby (feature, July 2) could have brought out more fully the irony of Dr Banda's academy if he had made it clear that Malawi has had its own university since 1963. The university was founded on the initiative of Dr Banda, who is its Chancellor, at a time when it was the policy of the Malawi Government to

provide undergraduate education at home.

One effect of the academy and its programme of foreign scholarships for first-degree courses is to reduce, by implication, the standing of Dr Banda's own university.

Sincerely,
IAN MICHAEL (Vice-Chancellor,
University of Malawi, 1964-73),
10A Downfield Road,
Bristol, Avon.

of its members (it can never be all) are prepared to contribute their shares to preserve a freedom from fear, let alone from want. In a civilized state this ideal can become a reality. Not where every man is for himself.

Your disciples have talked these last few months vigorously and resolutely of freedom and justice, but with little sign that they understood the terms. Decades ago even a Forsyte had to recognize his epoch as one which "had gilded individual liberty so that if a man had money he was free in law and in fact, and if he had not money he was free in law and not in fact".

True freedom depends on respect for others, not on fights with them to gain the lion's share, be it of a private health company's profits or the power to summon "my little man" from Harley Street or "my little nurse" from "wherever she lives".

As each of us knows, there are ways to economize without cutting our throats. Let the social services

be pruned and pruned again as their expenses rise. Let the fees, drug prices, estate sprawls, administering personnel, etc, be continually reviewed. Let new techniques for management and service be explored and tried. But do not let us abandon what is perhaps the one great achievement of the British people since 1945.

Nineteen eighty four is nearly upon us. Ironic that Orwell had other targets in his sights (or did he?). I do not know which he wrote first, but already we seem to be in the gateway to an Animal Farm, where justice is done but more for some than others.

If we have to go in, and maybe we shall not, I hope that *The Times* will manage to keep its four feet firmly on the ground.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK OSBORNE,
4 Dale Close,
Horsham,
West Sussex,
June 29.

Herstmonceux sale effects

From the Astronomer Royal

Sir, The proposal (*The Times*, July 8) that the Science and Engineering Research Council should dismantle the Royal Greenwich Observatory by selling its present home, Herstmonceux Castle, involves more than the economics of cubic feet of office space and the problems of maintaining a fifteenth-century castle.

Since Greenwich itself became unusable, the observatory has provided many services for British universities. In addition to the traditional services to time-keeping and navigation, it now provides vital observing facilities for university astronomers in the form of training telescopes at Herstmonceux and major telescopes in Australia and the Canary Islands.

In collaboration with Hull and other universities it has also recently completed a satellite laser ranger, which is expected to make major contributions to international geodetic programmes.

The report in *Nature* (June 30) that economic difficulties of the council as a whole may lead to the closure of the satellite laser ranger within a year of its completion suggests to me that the proposed economies at Herstmonceux may have been set down without due consideration to their effects on the many university research groups that now depend on the observatory.

It would be very sad to see the castle misused, or the library of the old Royal Observatory dispersed; it would be a disaster if the many ways in which the observatory provides for university research were to be destroyed in the process.

Yours faithfully,
F. GRAHAM SMITH, Director,
University of Manchester,
Nuffield Radio Astronomy
Laboratories,
Jodrell Bank,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
July 8.

A taste of nothing

From Mrs Stella Herbert

Sir, The mass of facts and figures produced by the supporters of rape honey is indeed impressive. I had not realised that I was betraying my country by objecting to it until I read Mr Sergeant's letter (July 4).

If, as he suggests, the lack of distinct flavour makes rape honey "ideal for children", how much further this idea could be taken in other areas of the food-processing industry.

Great strides have already been made in removing the flavour from, for instance, bread, chicken, pork and potatoes, but why not apply the same principle to all foods objected to by children? One thinks of turnips, apricots, onions, coffee, Christmas pudding, kippers - the list is endless.

The success of such a scheme would put an end to unpleasant mealtime scenes and restore parent power at a stroke.

Yours faithfully,
STELLA HERBERT,
23 Cedar Drive,
Market Bosworth,
Nuneaton,
Warwickshire,
July 6.

Feet on the ground

From Mr A. D. W. Pimm

Sir, I was very interested to read Sir Peter Masefield's letter (July 9). I should like to point out, however, that Joseph Montgolfier ascended from Lyon in a large balloon, "La Flesselles", on February 19, 1784, accompanied by Pilâtre de Rozier and several other people. They landed prematurely owing to a tear in the fabric but are said to have attained a height of about 1 km.

Etienne did not accompany his brother on this occasion and probably did not make any balloon ascents.

Yours faithfully,
A. D. W. PIMM,
43 Rowan Walk,
Bromley,
Kent,
July 11.

Hongkong council

From Mr W. Lo

Sir, As an ex-member of the legislative council of Hongkong, the remaining and most important colony, I would like to correct an error in Mr H. Hall's letter to you in *The Times* of July 4. He stated that the colonial legislators consisted of elected members and nominated members appointed by the governor, after the election had been held. This is not so; all members are appointed by the governor. Yours faithfully,
W. LO,
Hyde Park Hotel,
Knightsbridge, SW1,
July 5.

Bit of a come-down

From Mr Alan Brooks

Sir, How delighted I am that my local branch of the Abbey National Building Society is one of those fortunate enough to be already computer-linked! For this morning, the machine unblinkingly credited me with a balance, in my seven-day account, of £3,871,870.

I have the evidence in the print-out in my passbook. It is true that it has been crossed out and replaced, in a humble hand, by the correct figure - a somewhat smaller sum. But, at least, I have had the satisfaction of being a (multi-) millionaire for a minute.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BROOKS,
43 Western Avenue,
Brentwood,
Essex,
July 8.

SPECIAL REPORT

Portugal

After months of uncertainty, Portugal now has its strongest parliamentary government since the 1974 Revolution ended the dictatorship. But Dr Mário Soares has come to power at a time of acute economic crisis. Richard Wigg reports.

One of the most revealing books on Portugal's contemporary politics, published just before the April general elections, is — significantly —

Written by a full-time political adviser to President Eanes — he presides over a privileged though not impartial vantage point for observing Portuguese politics — it seeks to show how Portugal's Socialist and Social Democrat Parties, the country's two main political forces, each failed in their differing ways after attaining power to lead the nation and so effectively implement a programme.

After the Portuguese voters last April 25 cautiously hedged their bets, giving 36.3 per cent to the Socialists and 27 per cent to the Social Democrats (in elections held on the ninth anniversary of the armed forces' "Revolution of the Carnations"), these two parties found themselves — after years of combat — with no real alternative but to form a coalition government.

Their two leaders, both lawyers but men of very distinct personalities, the 59-year-old Socialist Dr Mário Soares, almost as widely known outside Portugal as at home, and Social Democrat Professor Carlos Mota Pinto, aged 47, clinging to his Coimbra university town birthplace, laboriously drew up a coalition programme and late last month obtained approval for it from the Assembly of the Republic, Portugal's single chamber parliament, by 161 votes to 67.

In parliamentary terms it is the strongest administration post-revolutionary Portugal has seen. The reforms of the 1976 Constitution, reducing the powers of the presidency, coupled with the new Government's two-thirds majority further restricting his veto, give the nation the chance for the first time of a strong executive.

Yet the so-called "Central Block" has come to power in the most awesome economic crisis of Portugal's modern history.

The dire economic facts of the situation overshadow, or ought to overshadow, all politics at least until the end of the

18-month long emergency austerity programme Dr Soares, Prime Minister for the second time and leading a government of national salvation, has prescribed for the country.

These facts are — foreign indebtedness, nearly \$14,000m, which has doubled since the revolutionary phase ended in 1976 and is a heavy burden for a country with under ten million inhabitants; a balance of payments deficit of \$3,200m, largely due to imports of essential items like cereals and oil; a chronic public sector deficit, with near bankrupt public sector enterprises, productivity figures only one fifth of the OECD average and half those of neighbouring Spain, and at least one million jobless or underemployed.

Portugal has been living on borrowed petro-dollars, particularly since 1979 when the late Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, a Social-Democrat leader, obtained power by leading an anti-Socialist coalition govern-

ment and Planning, who shoulders a task which dominates the rest of the cabinet-made up of nine Socialists and seven Social Democrats.

Son of a Lisbon tailor, Dr Soares is an Independent close to the Social Democrats. Some people in Lisbon are already likening him to the young Dr António Salazar, who started his dictatorship of almost 50 years by putting the country's finances in order in the 1920s at the behest of the military.

But the parallel seems inaccurate. Dr Soares is not a monetarist for monetarism's sake. Austerity, symbolized after his taking office by devaluation of the escudo, steeply increased fuel prices, and a slashing of food subsidies on items of popular consumption, is for him not an end in itself, but a necessity to get a grip on the nation's spendthrift economy. The economy has got to be restructured, not lived off from the outside world, as under Salazar, but in order to join the European Common Market, Portugal's only long-term salvation in Dr Soares's view.

Portugal's contemporary mood packs a fundamental paradox. Many ordinary Portuguese openly say their country needs firm, decisive government, leadership out of the crisis. But Dr Soares, presenting his Government's programme to Parliament before the vote, shrewdly noted a tendency in the country to regard the sacrifices needed as always incumbent on "the others".

Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the previous prime minister whose two and a half year administration as the longest-lived government since the end of the Revolution must take much of the blame for how Portugal's crisis has only worsened, has just warned of the risks involved in combating the dilemma for democracy itself.

"Democracy is only viable from certain economic, social, and cultural levels of development", the former magazine editor told Lisbon's *Diário de Notícias*, "and when these levels are pushed down by reason of an economic crisis or structural defects the regime itself, and not merely the government of the



Dr Mário Soares: the new Prime Minister prescribes austerity

day, is endangered. To cut the per capita annual income from \$9,000 to \$8,500 is one thing, to go from \$3,000 per head, which is still not yet Portugal's level, to \$2,500 is very different and has totally distinct political effects".

Dr Soares, in the name of patriotism, has taken on a daunting political challenge to lead the Portuguese out of a crisis whose cure cannot fail to have high social costs. Even his ambition to run for the presidency in 1985, an open secret in Lisbon political circles when President Eanes is constitutionally ineligible to run for a third consecutive term, does not lessen his calculated political gamble.

For as Portugal's most

experienced politician he is attempting to act as a bridge between the following of his own Socialist Party in the country and that of the Social Democrats.

But already his call for a "social pact", even a truce, between the social partners has not met with the hoped-for response. With more than one million jobless or underemployed, 100,000 estimated workers months behind with their wage payments and inadequate social assistance, the crisis in Portugal is a wholly different phenomenon from that of northern Europe. The IMF's recipes for a stabilization programme, prior to stand-by assistance, on which Dr Soares is embarking *faute de mieux*, is

not being tried in a faraway Latin American or Asian nation but in a country of Western Europe still struggling with structural, social and political problems of underdevelopment. Senhor Pinto Balsemão's words ought to be clear to the bankers. The communist-run General Confederation of Labour (CGTP), Portugal's most powerful trade union organization, has a confrontational mentality and without waiting to learn the details of Dr Soares's programme, began organizing the workers against what it pronounced were "rightwing economies". It said the offered truce meant only "workers capitulation".

THE ECONOMY

The truth that must be told

In his speech at the swearing-in of his government last month the Prime Minister, Dr Mário Soares, solemnly announced that the moment of truth had come. It was no longer possible for Portugal to obtain overseas loans while the country continued to live beyond its means. The economy has been paralysed for several months and major public and private companies, employing thousands of workers, are on the verge of collapse with billions of escudos in debts. The state is unable to continue the subsidies that have kept these companies functioning artificially.

For the past few years Portugal has maintained a level of domestic expenditure in excess of its national production and this excess has been financed through external borrowing. Portugal's failure to adjust to the second oil shock in 1979 meant that its domestic expenditure in real terms during the past three years has increased by almost 15 per cent while the OECD countries' percentage stands at about 1 per cent. Money supply increased by 35 per cent in 1980 and 1981 and by about 27 per cent last year.

The average growth rate during the past three years was around 3.2 per cent. In 1981 the balance of payments deficit represented almost 11.5 per cent of gdp and last year the figure had risen to 13.5 per cent. These levels of deficit could only be maintained by borrowing. The external debt has almost doubled since its 1979 figure of \$7.27bn became \$13.46bn at the end of 1982.

On coming to power the new Socialist-Social Democrat coalition stated that many Portuguese were not yet aware of the dimensions of the crisis. It is difficult for them publicly to blame the previous management for the present situation as the Social Democrats were the majority party in the last government. Until now the effects of the crisis have mainly been felt in banking and financial circles but with the introduction of the present short-term austerity measures the whole country will share the sacrifices that these measures entail. Public awareness came quickly when, during its first week of office, the Government devalued the escudo by 12 per cent and withdrew subsidies on such essentials as bread, milk,

sugar, cereals and animal feed, so increasing prices by more than 20 per cent. Petrol prices were increased last week for the second time this year.

The Government has pledged to work "until exhausted" to carry out its economic recovery and development plan for national salvation. In the short term, this means tackling the balance-of-payments deficit and the foreign debt. Long-overdue measures taken by the last caretaker government at the beginning of the year, such as raising interest rates and a surcharge on imports, are beginning to take effect and the measures now being introduced are designed to restore international banking confidence in Portugal after seven months of political uncertainty.

Short-term borrowing problems are tempered by the fact that the debt servicing ratio is around 27 per cent and by the \$11.5bn of foreign exchange reserves (largely in gold) which the state has demonstrated its willingness to use.

The escudo devaluation was necessary not only as a deterrent to imports but more importantly to give the green light to emigrants and businessmen with vast amounts of foreign reserves outside the country due to continuous devaluation rumours. The Government has warned the population that wage increases cannot keep pace with the cost-of-living increases and that everyone must make sacrifices in order to put the economy on its feet again.

In fact, the Government has little choice in how it achieves this and negotiations with the International Monetary Fund started this month.

Also included in the 18-month short-term programme is a review of present labour laws and a freeze on all new state investment until August 31. An immediate opening-up of certain sectors of public enterprise to private investment, namely banking, insurance, cement and fertilizers, is planned. This is more a psychological step to promote confidence and definite effects, though probably far-reaching, are unlikely to be felt in the short term. Then follows a middle and long term programme of development and modernization, especially of the state industries.

continued on page 17

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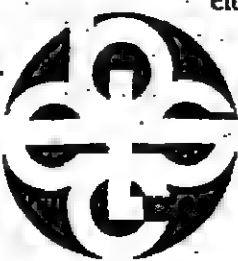
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IBERIA

The prickly neighbours



Dr Mário Soares, the new Portuguese Prime Minister, (right) and his Spanish counterpart, Señor Felipe González, at a previous meeting in Madrid: can the two Socialist leaders improve relations between their countries?

Portugal and Spain set maximum store on joining the European Community yet both persist with a barren policy, rooted in history, of turning their backs on each other. Relations between Lisbon and Madrid are at a new low.

When Senhor Jaime Gama, Portugal's new Foreign Minister, met Señor Fernando Morán, his Spanish opposite number, in Bonn last month he received a promise from the Spaniard of a fresh effort to improve relations as soon as possible.

An outsider might think an improvement of the least two Socialist politicians from the Iberian Peninsula could set themselves as a goal. But national interests on both sides and folk memories could well prove stronger and defeat them. A meeting between President Eanes and King Juan Carlos has been quietly put back until some progress on the ground emerges.

A trade dispute between the two nations has been dragging on for more than a year. A fishing conflict with both sides kept out of each other's waters has been allowed to continue six months after an existing agreement expired.

Portugal's fears of a dominat-

ing role by Spain if Madrid decides to join Nato's military organization have only been stilled because of the Socialist Government's decision to "freeze" Nato integration until after a referendum, probably in 1985.

Cultural exchanges are virtually non-existent and no market exists for private initiatives to prove the Governments have got it wrong.

From President Eanes down to the man in the street, the idea that Portugal's "big brother" might take over responsibility for the defence of the Iberian Peninsula under Nato is seen as reversing all Portuguese history since independence was achieved from Spain in the seventeenth century.

The Spaniards made things worse when preliminary talks about military integration were discreetly held before the Socialists arrived in power, by demanding a Nato command for themselves from the Canaries to the Balearics.

Portugal's then foreign minister replied publicly, declaring Lisbon would have no objections if the Spanish Canaries were brought under Iberian, the Nato command based on Lisbon and headed for the first time, since last year, by a Portuguese admiral.

Señor Morán recently judged it necessary to give an assurance that Spain had no intention of constructing Portugal's Nato role. But doubts exist in Lisbon about how far the Socialist Government will go in curbing the Spanish generals' "strategic thinking".

The Portuguese desire to play a bigger role in Nato has just been stressed by the new coalition Government floating the candidacy of Senhor Yasco Futscher Pereira, the previous foreign minister, as future Nato Secretary General.

However the Nato planners may draw the command structures, a basic Portuguese resistance stems from awareness that the country stands to obtain less in military assistance from its richer Nato allies when Spain's armed forces can put in their hefty demands for modernization.

Diplomats from the richer Nato countries in Lisbon privately admit Portugal has never been generously treated, though the United States enjoys a vital Atlantic base on Lajes, in the Azores, and is now negotiating for four new mainland installations.

Portugal's trade with Spain shows a four to one imbalance in favour of Madrid. Unlike

Ireland, which prepared for EEC entry by opening up to Britain, Portugal is reluctant to negotiate with Madrid the second phase of a 1980 Efta agreement supposed to provide a framework for trade between Spain and Portugal before EEC entry, maintaining that Spanish exports have poured in. Madrid replies that Portuguese exports, textiles, paper pulp, shoes, tinned fish and wines, are uncompetitively priced or already "coals to Newcastle".

But it is the fishing dispute which really conveys the intransigence based on typically differing perceptions by the two nations.

Official "reminders" by Madrid of the importance of the Spanish market for Portuguese fishermen or of Portuguese dependence on Spanish electricity supplies, especially in times of drought, have gone down very badly.

Relations between the two countries' top fisheries negotiators have even been personally tense, with Lisbon's Secretary of State once protesting that the Spaniards were so aggressive that they wanted to come in fishing on to the Algarve beaches, right under the tourists' noses.

Richard Wigg

EX-TERRITORIES

On the road back to Africa

Portugal's foreign policy can be said to be one of the few political areas which remains relatively unaffected by continuous changes of government. Successive administrations may introduce differences in style, but basically the four cornerstones of its policy remain the same: to join the European Community, fidelity within Nato, to look after Portuguese emigrant communities' interests and care for Third World countries - especially in Africa.

Traditionally, Portugal has looked outwards in order to solve its internal problems. When Brazil gained independence in 1822, Portugal developed its African colonies. But when, following Portugal's 1974 Revolution, those colonies were granted a hasty and poorly-planned independence, not only were they left to the mercy of extreme left-wing elements, but Portugal was left with internal problems and no overseas outlets with which to solve them.

As the revolutionary dust has begun to settle in Portuguese Africa, so Portugal has set about re-forging links with its five ex-colonies of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and São Tomé e Príncipe. The degree of success achieved

is in no small part due to the efforts of the President of Portugal, General Ramalho Eanes, whose visits to Mozambique in 1981 and to Angola in 1982, backed-up by similar visits from the then prime minister, Senhor Pinto Balsemão, set the seal on Portuguese overtures of friendship.

Both Portuguese and African economic difficulties have necessarily restricted the level of commercial cooperation, but the Africans feel at home seeking advice from people who speak the same language and know and understand their everyday problems. Improved relations have meant that Portugal can be considered a country worth consulting on questions relating to the problems of southern Africa, although the Portuguese foreign ministry prefers to play down this aspect, feeling that whatever success it may achieve in an intermediary capacity is due to the fact that it is not out to impose any particular line of thinking.

While commercial relations with the three smaller ex-colonies have continued more or less at the level of pre-independence days, in Angola and Mozambique the two years following independence brought

trading almost to a standstill, with signs of recuperation becoming evident from 1978 onwards. Portugal now has commercial agreements and lines of credit with all five countries. Several commercial ventures are under way, some of them joint-ventures with, among others, the EEC, France and Sweden as partners.

In Angola, Portugal is cooperating in the modernization and enlargement of the Cambambe Dam. Fifty per cent of the planned \$150m contract is scheduled to be paid in oil. Contracts in the tourist sector have already been signed and Portuguese tourist authorities are hopeful that they will play a major part in the development of tourism in Angola. Agriculture, transport and commerce are other areas benefiting from Portuguese cooperation. A record was established in 1981 for Portuguese trading in Angola with a trade balance of 12,902m escudos. However this was halved in 1982 due to Angola's internal difficulties.

In Mozambique, a contract is now being finalized calling for a Portuguese/French/Canadian venture to recoup the 400 miles of railway line from Nacala to Malawi. Again Portuguese cooperation is evident on

agriculture, building, commerce and transport and on the military side there are low-level plans in such areas as the provision of uniforms.

Portuguese/Mozambique relations took some time to get off the ground and a real improvement has only been seen in the past three years. As a Portuguese diplomat put it: "The more peaceful these countries are, the more they can turn their attention to being independently nationalistic. The more they feel threatened, the more they resort to idealistic rhetoric and pull back under the Marxist umbrella."

With 600,000 Portuguese in South Africa, Portugal also enjoys good formal relations with that country. Maintaining good relations there is considered imperative if Portugal is to assist in any way in southern African negotiations.

After 500 years of being in Africa, many Portuguese feel so close to their ex-colonies that they welcome a chance to work there again, not just for commercial reasons for they are aware of Portugal's financial limitations, but also because they still desire to be part of African development.

Susan MacDonald

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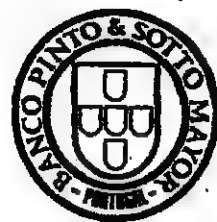
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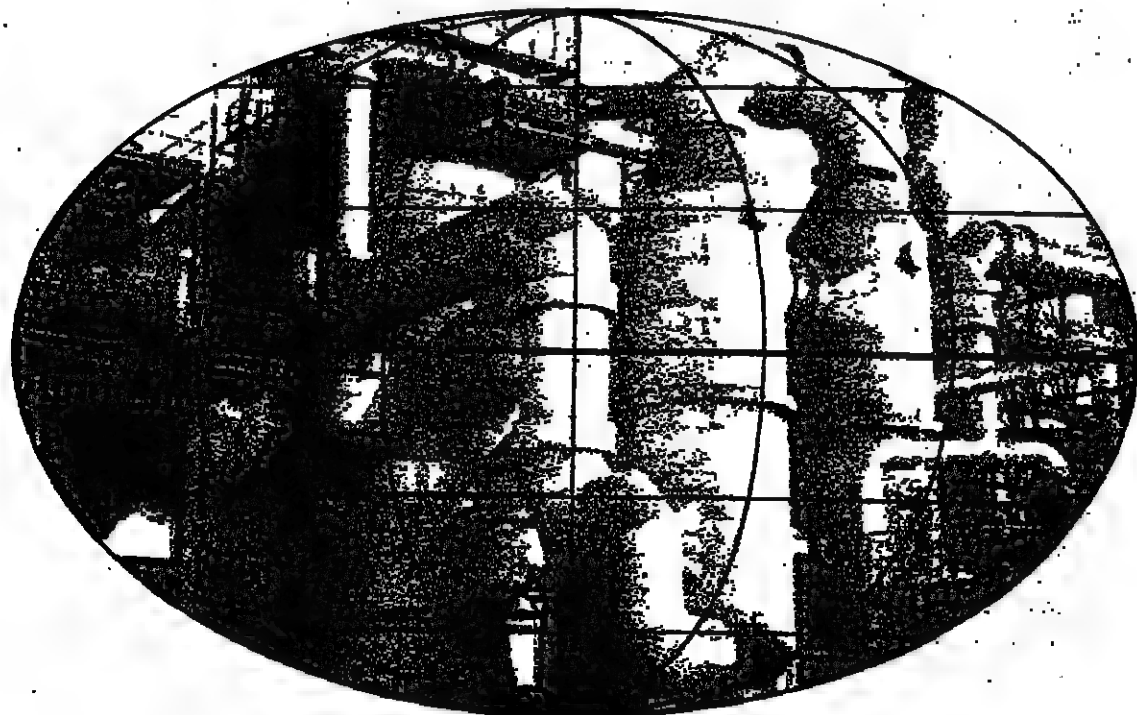
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PORTUGAL

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 14 1983

AGRICULTURE

Getting away from medieval methods

This year Portugal will import over half of its food; 20 years ago it was self-sufficient and agricultural exports then covered 100 per cent of agricultural imports. Today exports cover only 27 per cent.

There are many reasons for this. Despite Portugal's green and pleasant look, only 27 per cent of its land is good for farming. In addition, it suffers from backward costs, emigration and nearly a decade of unstable governments with conflicting agricultural policies. The agricultural growth rate has been negative since 1970.

When domestic demand rose sharply because of large wage increases after the 1974 Revolution, a surge of emigrant remittances and an increase in the consumer market by a million refugees from Portugal's former African territories, the country's stagnating agriculture was unable to meet the demand.

It cannot, either, meet the demands which will be put on it if Portugal enters the European Economic Community. The new Socialist-led Government is determined to enter in spite of the fact that the country's agricultural sector is among the least productive in Europe. The Government has an ambitious programme for transforming the medieval structure of agriculture. It promises to support "viable agricultural enterprises" - preferably large, privately owned ones - and farmers' associations. Among a host of other things, the programme promises to create land banks for farmers, revise the rural rent law, bring prices progressively up to EEC levels, install a system of collecting, storing and distributing products and pass a new law to change direction in agriculture.

Unless dramatic changes are made, Portugal's non-competitive agriculture will be threatened by products from the EEC. For example, its olive oil industry could be virtually wiped out by a flood of cheap vegetable oil from the Community. To avoid this, talks are at present being held on a proposal for a transition period of from four to 10 years for sensitive agricultural products.

Senhor Severino Pinto, of the planning department of the Ministry of Agriculture, said: "Some people believe that joining the EEC will force us to evolve, but the impact will be negative if we don't react".

Portuguese products, on the other hand, pose no threat to the EEC. Even though Portugal is the fifth largest wine producer in the world, its production would amount to only 5 per cent of the total wine production in a Community of 12. Its exports of tomatoes, almonds and onions are minimal. Portuguese negotiators point out these facts to the EEC in support of their claim that Portugal should be allowed to enter on different terms from those applying to Spain, whose products do present a threat.

Several projects are under way to improve agriculture, and some changes are evident. Electricity now reaches many remote areas. Farmers are being encouraged to form cooperatives. An agricultural college, sponsored by Britain, the United States, Norway, and Holland to prepare agricultural technicians, now has 600 students. Production in the north of the country has slightly improved through the use of better seeds, hybrid corn, fertilizers and limestone to neutralize acid soil.

Although young people still tend to leave the land, young farmers are tentatively returning, encouraged by better conditions, a lack of jobs in the cities, and prospects of eventual emigration.

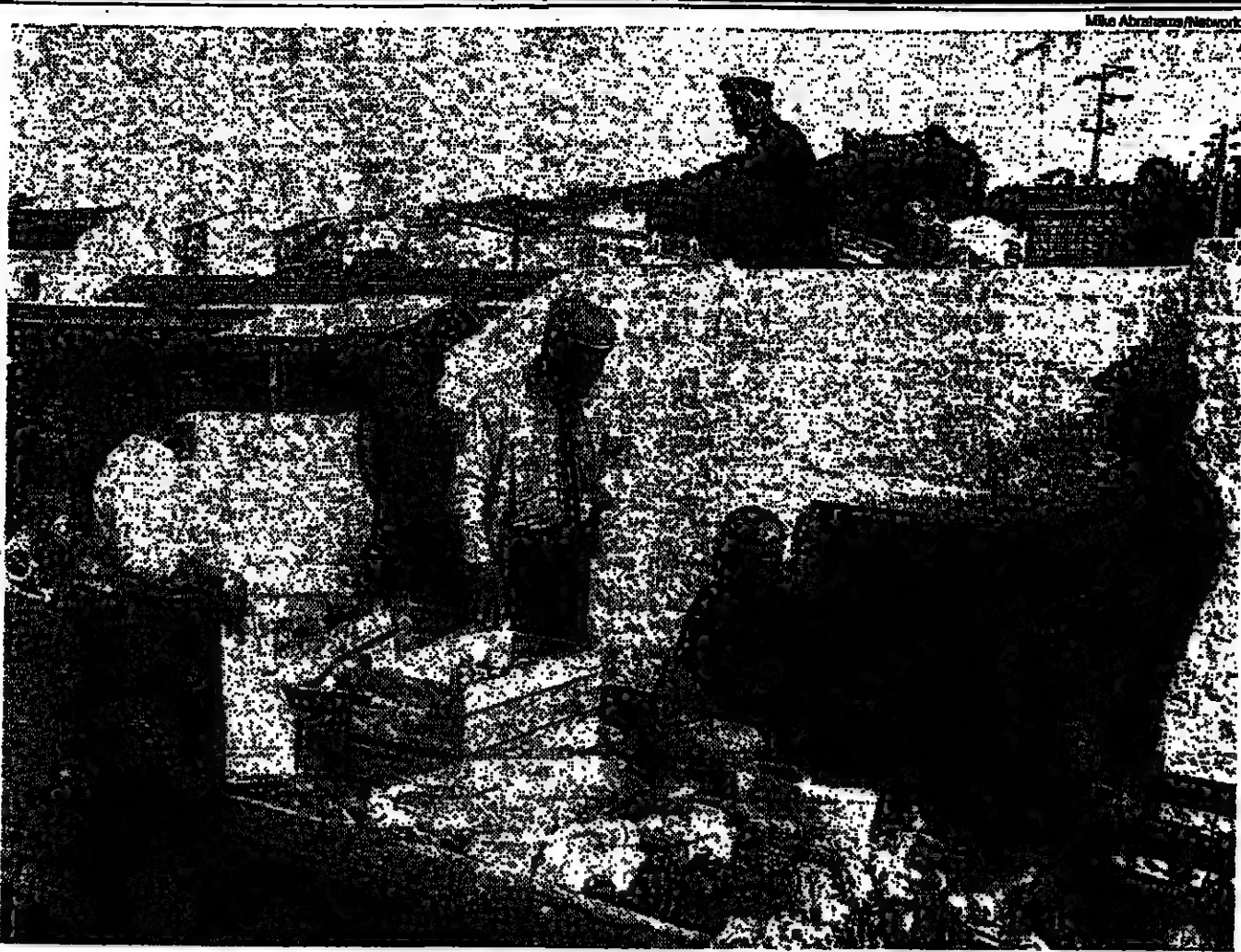
The north of Portugal has a five-year regional development plan backed by \$51m from the World Bank and an equal amount from the Portuguese Government. Its purpose is to improve and expand port wine production, provide more irrigated land and more pasture for cattle and plan crop rotation. A second project backed by the World Bank is aimed at improving forestry all over the country. A third project, sponsored by the EEC, aims to prepare the wine and milk industries for accession by implementing the RICA accounting system required for EEC membership.

Loans from the European Investment Bank and credit from Dutch and German institutions are also being negotiated. The United States is financing a project to correct acidity in the soil and British consultants are being called in to study the possibilities of the Douro river basin. The latter project is being financed jointly by the British and Portuguese Governments.

Northern Portugal is mountainous and the farms are small - 50 per cent have less than two hectares. One farmer may own a number of isolated plots scattered about the countryside. Farmers cling to traditional methods and are reluctant to cooperate with each other. Only the wine and dairy farmers have marketing associations.

Although emigrants have poured back enormous sums of money, it has not gone into productive investment. "First they put their money into building a big house, then they put it into more land to gain status", Professor Luis Valente de Oliveira, who is in charge of development in the north, says.

In the south, particularly in the Alentejo, the land is flat, dry and arid, and the soil is poor. Before the 1974 Revolution, there were vast estates, mostly underfarmed, belonging to absentee landlords. Many families of seasonal workers squatted on the land in abject poverty. After the Revolution, the Communist Party led them in taking over more than one million hectares of land to form



Street market in Nazareth, the fishing village and resort in central Portugal: without dramatic changes, the country's non-competitive agriculture would be threatened by Common Market membership

Facing the truth

continued from page 15

The nationalized sector had suffered from piecemeal management and over-staffing since the nationalization programme after the 1974 Revolution. The consequences of this policy have brought state industries such as Air Portugal and the shipping firms of Lisnave and Setenave to the verge of bankruptcy. Lisnave has suffered a series of communist-backed strikes which have all but crippled the company and resulted in the non-payment of workers' salaries. The civil construction industry, too, has declared itself on the edge of collapse and blamed among others the thriving clandestine building developers in Portugal. Corruption and moonlighting are part of everyday life. It is estimated that the parallel economy accounts for about 20 per cent of domestic production, with contraband being one of the foremost activities. Absenteeism is another blight on productivity and one which the Government declares itself determined to combat.

The future for Portuguese industry lies in its ability to adapt to the competitiveness of European integration. Over the last 18 months some industries, such as the important textile sector, have begun to realize the economic consequences of joining the EEC and first steps are being taken to modernize and streamline production.

One of the only rays of sunlight in an otherwise gloomy panorama is the pyrites exploration taking place in the Alentejo region by the firm of Somincor.

Somincor, with a 51 per cent interest held by a Portuguese state company, and 24.5 per cent held by each of two French companies was formed in 1980, after the discovery of high grade copper ore. Extraction from the Neves-Corvo mine should begin in 1986, with a projected yearly average of a million tonnes of copper ore.

It is as yet unclear whether the smelting plant planned at the Sines industrial complex will be completed in time to treat the first copper concentrates, but if not, they will be exported for smelting. Lloyds Bank International is handling the international financing of this important \$200m project. Present domestic imported copper consumption will account for only a third of the mine's final output. Other companies, including British ones, are prospecting in the area, but so far with no definite results.

TOURISM

Putting hotels in the right places

The tourist industry in Portugal accounts for about 5 per cent of gross national product. According to provisional Bank of Portugal figures, tourist receipts in 1982 amounted to 69,758m escudos. In recognition of this, the new Minister of Commerce and Tourism has acknowledged the economic importance of the industry and his intention to treat its problems accordingly.

Despite tourism's economic role and its importance in providing employment, it has suffered from a lack of central and co-ordinated regional planning which has resulted in a mushroom construction of hotels and holiday homes in a few main tourist areas while, until now, the rest of the country has been poorly equipped.

There are about 300 hotels in the whole of Portugal, of which about 60 per cent are concentrated in the four towns of Lisbon, Faro in the south, and Porto and Braga in the north. In some parts of the Algarve in particular, haphazard speculative building has not been accompanied by a similar growth in infrastructure, with the result that de-luxe hotels can be seen functioning in the middle of a wasteland.

Lack of access roads and amenities can be coupled with another more serious shortage - that of water. Dry winters over the past few years have caused serious scarcity during the summer. Plans to construct two more dams on the western and eastern side of the Algarve will go only part of the way to solving the problem.

Over-speculation has meant that tourist units begun eight to ten years ago still remain unfinished. Some hotels have been changed while under construction into private apartment blocks to avoid being recognized by the tourist authorities and therefore subject to

Martha de la Cal

Susan MacDonald

SM

PORTUGAL AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PORTUGAL has always been an active partner in European economic integration. She was a founding member of EFTA; with the first enlargement of the Community and owing to the importance of the British market for Portuguese external trade, Portugal, as well as the other non-applicant EFTA countries, concluded on 22 July 1972 a bilateral Free Trade Agreement with the EEC. The purpose of these agreements was the establishment of a free trade area for manufactured products, for the period 1973/77, thus preventing liberalization from regression.

The setting up of a democratic system in Portugal in 1974 was accompanied by the tightening of the existing links with the EEC, our major trade partner (see Table). Besides this, the Community decided to grant aid to Portugal in the form of:

- an emergency exceptional financial aid (decided on 10 October 1975), the EIB having made available to Portugal credits to the amount of ECU 150 million, with subsidized interest, for the financing of infrastructure and agricultural projects in 1976 and 1977;
- an Additional Protocol to the Free Trade Agreement of 1972 and a Financial Protocol both signed in Brussels in September 1976. In the Additional Protocol, the Community, in order to facilitate Portuguese exports, made additional tariff concessions in the industrial and agricultural fields, and Portugal was authorized to reintroduce certain customs duties so as to further protect her most vulnerable industries. The Financial Protocol included an ECU 200 million aid in the form of EIB loans, scheduled over a period of five years (150 million at subsidized interest) to finance investment projects intended to increase industrial productivity and improve infrastructure.

As the Paris and Rome Treaties expressly provide that the other European States which share the ideals of EEC member-countries may accede to it, Portugal, on March 22, 1977, submitted its request for full membership in the EEC, a political choice which reflected the concern for consolidation of the Portuguese democracy. The several institutions of the Community issued their favourable opinion to our accession and decided to grant aid in support of the economic restructuring of Portugal through:

TRADE FLOWS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

| Years | Exports | | Imports | |
|-------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | Million US\$ | % of Total Exports | Million US\$ | % of Total Imports |
| 1970 | 395.9 | 41.6 | 784.3 | 48.3 |
| 1974 | 1,097.8 | 48.2 | 2,022.1 | 43.5 |
| 1976 | 1,368.6 | 56.6 | 2,402.7 | 45.9 |
| 1979 | 1,995.2 | 57.3 | 2,731.7 | 42.8 |
| 1980 | 2,546.9 | 54.9 | 3,686.6 | 39.5 |
| 1981 | 2,229.0 | 53.8 | 3,716.3 | 38.1 |
| 1982 | 2,694.1 | 57.2 | 4,325.7 | 40.7 |

Sources: IMF, Direction of Trade Statistics.

- a Supplementary Protocol to the Free Trade Agreement (signed on 19 December 1979) which contemplates measures to protect the Portuguese industry and an easier access to the EEC of some domestic products;

- the accelerated implementation of the Financial Protocol (decided on 15 January 1980) with a two-year reduction in the period initially established for the utilization of the overall amount;

- a pre-accession aid to support the country's integration (signed on December 13, 1980) to the amount of ECU 275 million, of which 150 million in the form of an EIB loan (125 million with subsidized interest) and 125 million in the form of nonrepayable aid, out of the Community Budget.

The negotiations for Portugal's accession to the EEC formally started on 17 October 1978. In the first ministerial meeting, it was agreed that the negotiations would continue on the basis of the acceptance by Portugal of the "acquis communautaire" and consequently that the adjustment problems on both sides would be solved by transitional measures.

The negotiations began to bear the desired results in 1982, a preliminary consensus having been reached on 22 February on 5 Chapters: Capital Movements, Exports, Transports, Economic and Financial Matters and Regional Policy. On 21 June agreement was reached on three major issues included in the 2nd package, with the definition of the transitional periods for VAT, the Foreign Direct Investment system, and tariff dismantling in the industrial sector. In September, five major files were almost entirely closed - Customs Union, ECSC, External Relations, Tax Provisions and Right of Establishment - and the negotiations advanced to the third stage. Thus, the remaining issues are institutional and legislative matters and the chapters on Social Affairs, Budget Affairs, Agriculture and Fisheries, the last two directly connected with the process of internal reform which the Ten have been discussing for quite a long while; as far as Agriculture, agreement among the Ten has still to be reached.

The setting up of a concrete timing for Portugal's integration in the EEC would be of major importance, even if a few transitional periods were considered. As a matter of fact, a precise time-table for accession would reinforce general confidence and stability, thus providing an additional stimulus to Portuguese businessmen in their efforts towards modernization. Under these circumstances, it is clear that a minimum consensus among the Ten on the future organization of the Community Budget and of CAP is of crucial importance for Portugal.

The largest contribution of Portugal's accession to the EEC shall be the strengthening of its role worldwide, due to Portugal's policy of openness to foreign countries and to its historical relations with countries in Africa, Latin America and the Far East.

The major consequences for Portugal of its full membership in the Common Market are, on the one hand, the defence against protectionism, which in recent years has been adversely affecting national exports, and, on the other hand, the financial aid that the EEC may grant and which will become the catalyst for the modernization of productive structures. Of course this last aspect heavily depends upon the existence of viable projects, a prerequisite to take full advantage of Community funds; Portuguese authorities are well aware of the efforts to be made on this matter.

However, substantial changes are required for the accession to have the positive results we are aiming at; these changes should be made as soon as possible. That is an area in which foreign investment will have an important role to play. The integration of Portugal in the most free trade area of the world will also be an incentive for foreigners to invest in Portugal, a country with skilled workers and where labour costs are comparatively favourable.

BANCO DE PORTUGAL
Research and Statistics Department

MARKET REPORT by Jeremy Warner

Index hit by New York fall

ACCOUNT DAYS. Dealings began, July 4. Dealings end, July 15. Contango Day, July 18. Settlement Day, July 25.

The overnight collapse in Wall Street prices, coupled with lingering fears of higher British interest rates, was enough to push the FT 30 Index down by 5.2 points yesterday to close at 676.9.

Among the leaders, BOC was one of the few stocks to make any headway, gaining 6p to finish at 219p as buyers returned to the shares which have been out of favour since a recent analysts' meeting.

Market sentiment and further fears about the introduction of the new anti-ulcer drug, Zantac, sent Glaxo Holdings down by 15p to 830p. Plessey was another heavy faller, coming back 10p to 654p on the day. GEC fell 6p to 202p during the day, but came back to hold firm at 208p, and ICI was up 4p at 520p despite continuing interest from United States buyers.

A rather dull statement on prospects from Mr Anthony Pilkington, chairman of Pilkington, the glassmakers, was enough to send the shares down 7p to 236p. In his annual statement to shareholders, he says that further redundancy and pension make-up costs will be incurred this year.

At a briefing to publicize the results, he said that this year's results are unlikely to be significantly different from last year when pretax profits fell from £53.4m to £49.9m.

Glits closed a shade lower after the release of a £500m new government tap: £300m of 10 1/2 per cent 1997 stock was released along with £200m of 11 1/2 per cent Treasury stock 2001 to 2004. The FT 30 Index came down by 0.03 points to 79.97.

Strong results from Cable & Wireless helped shake off fears of a further government sale of its remaining stake in the communications company.

Pretax profits were up by 76 per cent at £157m, while enthusiasm for the shares was helped by news of a 50 per cent scrip issue. The shares closed up 27p at 424p.

H. P. Bulmer, the Strongbow and Woodpecker cider group, also managed exciting results with pretax profits nearly doubling to £13.3m, against £7.5m last time.

But the market was impressed by an accompanying statement pointing to slower future growth and the shares came back by 25p to close at 398p as investors took their profits and ran.

Dowry Group also continued yesterday's fall after a grim statement on the prospects for its mining activities. The shares were down by 9p to 119p.

which is a low for the year. Dobson Park was also off 1 1/2p at 59p as analysts began downgrading their long-term forecasts for the group which depends heavily on the mining industry for its orders.

Breweries were a weak market after the EEC ruling that Raine Engineering Industries, the Sheffield house-builder which also makes Fox Umbrella frames, is not due to report full year figures until October. But a strong performance in the second half, after pretax profits jumped from £68,000 to £241,000 in the first six months, suggests the shares are undervalued at 15 1/2p.

beer prices should be brought in line with other alcohol duties in the Community. That could mean 7p extra on a pint of beer, and it sent Allied-Lyons shares down 3p to 137p. Grand

Metropolitan down by 3p to 327p. Bass came back 2p to close at 310p.

Oils were also uncertain as BP lost 10p to 392p after reports that the Government is considering a sale of between 5 per cent and 7 per cent of the shares.

Fears on the Brazilian debt crisis pushed down prices among the leading banks. Lloyds shares fell by 14p to 526p and Barclays were down by 10p to 526p at the close.

On a brighter note, Ratners, the jewellers, reached a high for the year, rising 2p to 48p after good results. One of the biggest percentage gains of the day came at Group Lotus, where the recent slide in prices was countered.

There was also strong speculative interest in shares of Inter City Investments, the wholesale garment distributor, which gained 4 1/2p to close at 52p. There has been strong interest in the shares since it was revealed that the group is returning to profits after two years of losses, after the Swiss group, Metan Investments disclosed it had taken a 7.5 per cent stake.

RECENT ISSUES

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

Price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities, * by tender.

BRITISH FUNDS

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

MIDLANDS

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

SOUTHERN

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

DOLLAR STOCKS

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERS

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

| Company | Price | Change | % |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Airways | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Petroleum | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Telecom | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |
| British Water | 115.50 | +0.25 | +0.22 |

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1992/1993

The World's Top Companies

The top 1000 UK companies with an annual turnover

The 500 leading British companies and American

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
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THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 876.9 down 5.2
 FT 100: 80.00 up 0.03
 FT All Shares: Datastream's estimate was 431.0 down 0.97
 Bargains: 19,030
 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 93.80 down 0.21

New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1193.91 down 4.61
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 8883.60 down 53.61
 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1026.55 down 0.56
 Amsterdam: Index 143.8 down 2.4

Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 955.80 down 9.6
 Sydney: A O Index 621.8 up 1.6

Brussels: General Index 128.59 down 0.89
 Paris: C A C Index 125.50 down 0.6

Zurich: S K A Index 288.00 down 0.7

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5290 down 25pts
 Index 84.9 down 0.1
 DM 3.9550 up 0.0100
 FF 11.8900 down 0.0300
 Yen 367 down 1.75

Dollar
 Index 128.0 down 0.2
 DM 2.5880

NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.5310

INTERNATIONAL
 ECU £0.574181
 SDR £0.692737

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Base rate 9%
 Finance houses base rate 10%
 Discount market loans week fixed 8%

3 month interbank 10-9%
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 10%
 3 month DM 6%
 3 month FF 14%
 3 month FR 14%

US rates:
 Bank prime rate 10.50%
 Fed funds 9%
 Treasury long bond 9 1/4-9 1/2%

ECG Fixed Rate Sterling
 Export Finance Scheme IV
 Average reference rate for interest period June 8 to July 5, 1983, inclusive: 9.878 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$426.50; pm \$427.25 - close \$425.50

New York latest: \$427.25

Krugers (per coin): \$436-\$439.50 (\$286-\$287)

Sovereigns (new): \$100-\$101 (\$85.25-\$86)

*excludes VAT.

Profit hope for Ratners

Ratners, the jewelry chain, suffered a pre-tax loss of £350,000 for the year to April 6, against a profit of £891,000 for the previous 12 months. But the loss for the whole year shows a substantial improvement on the £1.1m setback for the first half, and a profit is forecast for 1983-84.

Trading has gained momentum since Christmas and continued to be strong in the first financial year. So the board is recommending that the final dividend be held at 2.33p gross, also the same for the year.

After tax, losses were reduced to £325,000 after an extraordinary gain of £108,000 from property disposals, and Ratners managed to restrict the increase in overheads to 6 per cent. Total sales were marginally up at £25.9m.

POSGATE SUSPENSION: Lloyd's of London said yesterday that a sub-committee of the council of Lloyd's had decided to issue to Mr Ian Posgate a further direction of administrative suspension. The further period of administrative suspension will be for five months and will be effective from July 26, when the existing direction expires.

BUNZL TERMS: Following exchange of contracts Bunzl, the packaging, paper, filters and distribution group, yesterday issued a letter to shareholders outlining the terms of the proposed acquisition of the packaging consultants, Inc/Mac-Pak Group of companies, announced on May 11.

AIRLINES DISPUTE: Government intervention in the transatlantic dispute over a £600m American lawsuit against world airlines including British Airways and British Caledonian will be challenged in the Court of Appeal.

Privatization success maintains impressive growth record

Cable and Wireless beats all City forecasts with 76% climb in profits

By Wayne Lintott

Cable and Wireless, one of the Government's first major privatizations in 1981, has maintained its impressive growth record by easily beating the best of the City's profit forecasts for its full year figures.

The company reported pretax profits soaring by 76 per cent to £157m for the year ended March, 1983, against £89m the year before. A one-for-two scrip issue is an added bonus for shareholders who also receive a final dividend of 5p making a total of 8.2p for the year, up from 6.6p the year before.

The Government still owns 50 per cent of the issued capital, plus one ordinary share, and has stated its intention to maintain its majority shareholding. On the issued capital, the Government stands to net

around £10m on the dividend payment.

With 270m shares issued - the Government supports the board - Cable & Wireless could become a prime contender for any Government sell-off of private assets to help bring the Government spending and borrowing requirement back under control.

Mr Ernest Potter, finance director, said he was not surprised that analysts had failed to come anywhere near the Cable's profit performance. The highly complex nature of the business made it extremely unlikely that they would ever be able to predict the outcome accurately.

Mr Eric Sharp, chairman, did sound one note of warning: "The profits for the current year



Sharp: sounded one note of warning on present year's figures

will not be significantly different from the reported figures.

The fall in the value of the pound played a significant part in the overall figures. Had profits been translated into

sterling at last year's higher exchange rate, pretax profits would have been £11m lower.

But Mr Sharp did dismiss City claims that much of this year's profit derived from gains made on the company's £700m cash holding.

He said that far too much importance had been placed on the cash holdings. That amount had not grown over the year and much more was earned on interest payments. "And anyway," said Mr Potter, "the City is mistaken in its belief that money was all on deposit. Much of it had been used in the company's leasing agreements and working capital requirements."

The increase in profits, Mr Potter added, was a direct result of the reorganization of the last two years which placed greater

profit responsibility on area managers.

Mr Sharp was emphatic that the talks between the unofficial cabinet of Hongkong and the British Prime Minister would not exercise an influence over the company's increasing exposure to Far East trade.

The People's Republic of China already owned 51 per cent of the new company which would be handling the communications of the major oil companies exploring in Chinese waters.

Mr Sharp added that the annual report, to be issued on April 9, 1984, would deal with several points not covered in this statement.

C&W shares jumped 27p to 424p a share, which means the Government could raise £75m if it chose to sell its holding.

Latest gilt tranches likely to appeal

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England took advantage of another stable day in the gilt market to announce two tranches of existing Government stock. The tranches, £300m of 10 1/2 per cent Exchequer 1997 and £200m of 11 1/2 per cent Treasury 2001-2004 will be available from tomorrow but will not be operated as a stocks.

The City has been waiting nervously for a resumption of gilt sales in the belief that the Government has fallen behind in its funding programme. The Tuesday, the remains of the 2 1/2 per cent index-linked convertible 1999 were sold out after the Government broker cut the price, but dealers reported heavy switching out of other stocks.

However there was some optimism yesterday that the two latest tranches would break the logjam and would be well received.

For the first time since November 1981, the Government is making a conventional issue maturing beyond 2000, and this is expected to appeal to long-term funds.

"The Government has clearly recognized that there is an

appetite for longer dated stock and done a tiny bit to fulfil it," one dealer said yesterday.

After Tuesday's rally, the gilt market recovered earlier small losses yesterday and in quiet trading ended the day with gains of about 1/4 at the long end of the market and short-dated stocks unchanged or marginally easier.

By making the new tranches available from tomorrow the authorities will be hoping to soak up funds from the non-bank private sector before the end of the banking month next Wednesday. This would help to take some of the steam out of money supply growth which has been running well above government targets.

For some time the Government has been steering clear of the long end of the bond market in an attempt to encourage the corporate sector to go into the fixed interest debenture market and because it did not want to issue high-yielding, long-dated stock when inflation was expected to stay low.

However, the City still believes that the Government may be forced to make further issues of long-dated stock if it is to satisfy its funding needs.

Argentina to clear interest arrears

Buenos Aires, (Reuters) - Argentina will pay interest arrears for May which have accrued on its public sector external debt with the final \$300m (£197m) tranche of a \$1.1bn bridging loan from creditor banks, according to government sources.

Interest on the public sector external debt has been paid to the end of April, and June payments are also up to date. But those for May are still outstanding.

Bankers said this could be Argentina's way of tidying its account while impressing creditors of the need for fresh funds. The sources declined to say how much the interest arrears

for May amounted to, but they said that their payment with the final tranche of the bridging loan was in accordance with an agreement between Argentina and an advisory committee of creditor banks.

Disbursement of the \$300m has been held up because banks originally wanted Argentina to clear public debt interest arrears before receiving the money.

A three-year refinancing of overdue trade debts was signed by 25 international banks yesterday, Barclays Bank International announced. The banks are refinancing about \$1.6bn arrears on letters of credit. The loan is repayable monthly starting next January.

WALL STREET

Stocks drift lower

New York (AP-Dow Jones) Stocks continued their gradual decline yesterday in sluggish trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down about 4 1/2 points to 1,193 in early trading. Declines were 5-to-25 over advances. Mr Keith F. Pinos, research director at Underwood Newhaus & Co, expected sloppy market for a while longer. "The 1,180 support-level in the Dow may not hold. But we have already seen significant corrections in the high technology and more volatile issues so I would be surprised to get a general correction here," he said.

International Business Machines was unchanged at 120 5/8; American Telephone & Telegraph 62 1/2, up 1/8; General Motors 70 1/4, up 1/4; American Express 66 1/8, down 3/8; Allegheny 84 3/8, up 1/8; Honeywell 110, down 1 1/8; Massonite 44 1/4, down 1 1/4; Amerasia 63 3/8, down 3/8; Data General 63 3/4, up 1/4; Digital Equipment 114 1/2, down 1/8; Baxter Travenol 57 1/4, down 7/8; Merck 57 1/4, down 1 1/2.

Tandy was up 3/4 to 46 7/8; Superior Oil up 1/8 to 37 1/8; St. Regis Paper up 7/8 to 27 5/8; Texas Instruments up 1/4 to 123 3/4; Aydin Down 1 7/8 to 55 1/8; General Electric down 1/4 to 52 1/4 and CPC International down 5/8 to 37.

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Brazil confident of extension

Brasilia (AP-Dow Jones)

The Brazilian Government's three top economic leaders met yesterday with bankers from the International Monetary Fund to iron out differences and come up with a compromise to release a \$411m loan.

The meetings took on extra weight this week when the Bank for International Settlements said it would not extend Brazil's Friday deadline to repay \$400m. The government has refused to comment on its plans for repayment or elaborate on the substance of the talks.

The IMF money, which was due at the end of May, was postponed because of Brazil's failure to follow the agreed economic outline. Inflation, now running at about 127 per cent, is almost 40 points higher than promised. Public sector over-spending was \$1bn for the first quarter of this year.

The BIS loan was extended until the end of June after the IMF delayed the \$411m loan. It again gave Brazil another 15 days. But the BIS said on Monday that it would not extend its repayment time.

Despite Dr Fritz Leutwiler, president of the BIS, saying that Brazil would not get another extension, Senor Ernane Galvao, Brazil's finance minister, said yesterday in Caracas that he was expecting a favorable decision from the BIS. He said he was waiting for the BIS board to meet - but it does not meet until September.

And sources close to the BIS said it was highly unlikely that Dr Leutwiler would have taken a hardline position against Brazil without the full assent of his board.

Monetary sources noted, however, that the central bank's involvement in making high-level BIS decisions such as an extension of a loan to Brazil, are in regular contact with each other and that a decision could probably be reached quickly outside the confines of the regular board meeting.

If Brazil does not come up with the money, there would not be a "moratorium" or "default". A moratorium would have to be declared by Brazil, and default is an action by the lender.

Brazil has been hit by strikes in protest against government measures and by severe rain storms in the South that threaten billions of dollars in losses to crops. The strikes were sparked by state-run oil refinery workers who said that the Government's plans to cut public sector spending would lead to job lay-offs.

The plans call for salary cuts and reductions of benefits, but does not apply to any of the thousands of workers employed by the Government. The workers reasoned that the companies would fire veterans and employ new workers. The average worker earns less than \$150 a month.

In recent months, the Government has also raised some taxes, lifted the price of petrol 45 per cent and devalued the country's currency by 23 per cent to encourage exports.

The country has a foreign debt estimated at \$90bn.

International Signal in new rights issue

By Philip Robinson

International Signal & Control Group, the American-based electronics weapons company, yesterday asked London investors for more cash. It is the group's second big fund-raising exercise in less than a year.

Since International Signal came to the London market last October, it has raised £76.25m, from non-American investors. Americans are barred from owning the shares.

When the group came to market, it raised £30m via an offer for sale. Now it is raising £43.5m, partly to buy a US-based defence company and partly to pay off four directors and two shareholders who took on \$20m worth of debt before International Signal went public.

The company is first giving shareholders one free share for one already owned and then offering 34.6 million new shares for sale by tender to the public at a minimum tender price of 125p. Of those shares, 10 million are being bought from the directors and shareholders who took on past debt.

The remaining shares will be sold to finance the £28.4m purchase of the Marquardt Company, a California-based weapons group, whose largest customer is the US Defence Department.

IN BRIEF

ANGUSTUS OFFERS:

Offers were already coming in yesterday for parts, or all of Augustus Barnett, the 340-branch winchshop chain which collapsed on Monday when directors requested National Westminster Bank to appoint a receiver. A full statement on debts has yet to emerge from the directors.

TRAFALGAR MOVE: Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, said the company intended to pursue the acquisition of peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. (P&O) "with vigour". He reiterated Trafalgar's view that a merger would benefit both companies.

STORE SHAKEUP: S and U Stores, Birmingham-based consumer credit group, is asking shareholders to approve a capital reorganization which will allow it to waive arrears of dividends payable to holders of its preferred ordinary shares of £855.203. The directors say the company's progress is being handicapped by these contingencies and that repayment of loans by directors to the company and the dividend arrears would seriously weaken the group.

OVER SUBSCRIBERS: New Issue DPCE Holdings, the Wokingham-based computer maintenance company, announced that its offer of 3,869,000 5p shares - about a third of the capital - was oversubscribed 2.7 times at the striking price of 200p. The employees took up their full allocation of 101,554 shares subscribing over £200,000 in new capital.

"I am a roaring bull," said Mr Toby Heale, partner in James Capel, and that broker's South-East Asia specialist. But he added the warning: "When the market goes, it will go with a whoosh. One corporate deal will break the log-jam, and once the money-go-round starts, the whole sector will take off."

A lot hangs on industrial recovery," said Mr Heale, "and here Hongkong is very strong. Firms have orders in hand through to April, 1984 - just like Jaguar in the UK."

Although political pundits have been predicting that a definitive statement of Hongkong's future might be 18 months or two years off, most stock market specialists are now confident that it will be made before the middle of next year.

City Editor's Comment

Amex steps into the supermarket

American Express's \$1bn takeover on Tuesday of the assets of Allegheny Corporation is the latest and largest of a series of purchases the group has made on its way to becoming one of the leaders of the financial services industry.

Only six months ago, Amex spent \$550m buying the non-US part of Trade Development Bank and in 1981 it bought the second biggest New York brokerage house, Shearson, Loeb, Rhoades, for \$930m.

Investors Diversified Services, Allegheny's main asset, gives Amex a big foothold in mutual funds in the US, where IDS has more than \$15bn of assets owned and under management, and also makes it much bigger in life assurance business.

However, the key to the deal is IDS's 4,100-strong sales force. Whereas the last two big acquisitions made by Amex were designed to gain a foothold in the top end of the market - the high net worth individuals with money to invest - IDS's door-to-door sales force, gives Amex direct access to the mass middle-market in the US. This, Amex reckons, means 33 million households where people earn between \$35,000 to \$60,000.

The interesting point here, though, is that there is no evidence that people in this section of the market want the sophisticated financial services which American Express claim to offer.

What they may want, and what they may be persuaded to buy by the itinerant sales force is more likely to be the typical middling quality insurance and savings programmes. But these, though potentially profitable, are nevertheless a far cry from the jet-setting world of the Trade Development Bank.

The question then is whether the group really can service such a diverse range of customers from the world's richest to the average

Middle West white collar. One suspects that they cannot, that Amex has been seduced by all the talk of financial supermarkets and one stop shopping for financial services, and has lost sight of the difficulties inherent in being all things to all investors.

Castle in the air

It is an adage that when a company moves to a new head office it is time to sell the shares - but seldom has it proved more relevant than in the case of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Yesterday one of its executives confirmed what the rumour mill had been saying for some weeks - that the new head office building at present under construction in the colony is running massively over budget, and will cost at least HK\$55m (£450m) to complete.

The true figure could be even higher because there are still several outstanding claims to be resolved, with the top range of estimates coming out at more than £700m. Even if the lower figure is closer to the mark, the bank will have spent almost as much on its head office as it offered for the Royal Bank of Scotland, and about as much as it paid for Marine Midland, one of the larger banks in New York.

If the board is embarrassed about this profiteering use of its shareholders' money, it is not admitting so in public. So far the case serious economy to have been made in cutting the cost of the structure appears to be in dispensing with the helicopter pad - on the not unreasonable grounds that there is no where in Hongkong to go by helicopter.

That is probably a start - but it is hardly enough to restore shareholders' confidence that the building constitutes the best possible use for their money.

Magnet chief predicts upturn

Demand for building products is going from strength to strength, according to Mr Sam Oxford, chairman of Magnet and Southern, the timber group.

Since the beginning of May, the sales volume of the joinery products group, had risen by 14 per cent, Mr Oxford said. "Things are considerably better than a year ago. We have spent a lot of money getting ourselves ready to cope with such a sharp upturn and we may well now be on the threshold of such a scene."

Mr Oxford was reporting figures for the year to the end of March, which shows that the group exceeded the forecast of pre-tax profits of not less than

Magnet and Southern Year to 31.3.83
 Pretax profit £24.69m (£19.1m)
 Stated earnings 90p (74p)
 Turnover £161.69m (£136.35m)
 Net final dividend 2.5p (3.3p)
 Share price 156p down 10p Yield 3.6%

£24m made at the time of the £27m rights issue in February.

Profits rose from £19.1m to £24.69m on sales up by 19 per cent to £161.69m. The group cites the upturn in housing starts, completions and refurbishment work as the main reason for buoyant trading. The branch network, which already this year has been expanded by nine with a further 15 planned before the end of next March, has also boosted trade.

"Providing there is no catastrophic round the corner our prospects for this year and for the future are very good," added Mr Oxford. However, in the stock market, which has grown used to buoyant results from companies in the building materials sector, Magnet and Southern shares fell 10p.

The company is to have a new factory for timber components and roof trusses and has also taken an increase in production kitchen units. A site has been secured for a factory to glass tempering plant commitments on these and the branch opening programme amount to £20m.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

\$85,000,000

Lignite Mine Project Financing For

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CONTINENTAL BANK

Continental Illinois National Bank

Standard Chartered Bank names director

Standard Chartered Bank: Mr James Loudon has been appointed to the board.

Satellite Television: Mr Patrick Cox has been appointed managing director from September. Mr Cox has been executive vice-chairman of Radio Luxembourg (London) since May 1980. He joined the Radio Television Luxembourg group in Paris in 1978 and moved to London in 1981.

Morgan Grenfell & Co: Messrs P. I. Espenhahn, M. E. Joldesley, M. P. Knight, P. B. J. Polonicki, R. M. J. Taylor and R. H. Westcott have joined the board.

These appointments have also been made to the boards of its subsidiary companies: Messrs C. J. Knight, R. N. Thayer and J. M. Short to Morgan Grenfell Finance; Mr F. I. Carrington to Morgan Grenfell International; and Messrs A. J. Brown and A. M. Wheatley to Morgan Grenfell Investments.

APPOINTMENTS

Amalgamated Metal Corporation: Mr T. Graham Lock has been made chief executive.

William Faber & Dumas: Mr D. G. Shaw has become a director and deputy chairman - international division.

Associated British Ports: Mr David Cooper has been appointed deputy director of research.

Cyle Products International: Mr Allan Castle has joined the Board as financial director.

TSI Thermal Syndicate: Mr Bent Henriksen has joined as group managing director.

McKinsey & Company: Mr Kevin Jones has been elected a principal in the London office.

Gratze Barrett & Wright: Mr Martin Gratze has been appointed chairman of the newly formed company and Mr Chris Sneath managing director.

Andrew Cornelius on Northern Ireland's search for energy solution

Ulster studies options to fuel its future



NORTHERN IRELAND ENERGY ISSUES

a discussion paper

Adam Butler faces up to the province's energy problems in the discussion paper he has endorsed which is published today.

currently accounts for only 3 per cent of total energy consumption.

For this reason much of the pressure on Mr Butler has come from rival groups in the United Kingdom which are vying for a share of the Northern Ireland energy market. What started as gentle lobbying from the National Coal Board and a United Kingdom publicly quoted open-cast mining company, Burnet & Hallamshire Holdings, is fast turning into full-scale battle over the type of fuel which will offer the best value for money.

No conclusions are offered on the likely outcome of government deliberations, although an early decision is promised on the long-standing negotiations with the Irish Government in Dublin on the supply of natural gas to the North by pipeline from Kinsale. Mr Butler has arranged a meeting with the Dublin Government two weeks from now to discuss the project which provides a potential solution for one part of the wider energy problem in the North.

The substitution of gas supplied from naphtha oil-based feedstock with natural gas from Kinsale theoretically offers savings of up to 20 per cent in gas prices. But the project has already been rejected once by the United Kingdom Government and is fraught with both political and economic danger associated with future changes in Irish pricing policy.

The success of the project also largely depends on there being a significant increase in the amount of gas demand in Northern Ireland, where it

project would create 1,000 jobs in Scotland and Northern Ireland, mainly in shipping and haulage activities, while providing good quality coal at bargain basement prices.

However, the Government is also aware of the potential offered by the discovery of at least 100 million tonnes of proven reserves of lignite on the edge of Loch Neagh, about 14 miles from Belfast. The Burnet board has argued that there could be as much as 450 million tonnes of lignite in the area, which would be enough to make the province self-sufficient in energy until well into the next century. But the sceptics argue that most of the additional reserves are actually under the Loch which would make mining either impossible, or uneconomic.

They also suggest that lignite is such a poor quality substitute for steam coal, with less than half the calorific value, that huge quantities need to be burned to achieve the same results.

Despite the problems the Burnet move to establish a £10m pilot plant to test the project viability receives a filip today with the publication of the conclusions of a study

SHARES OF TOTAL ENERGY SUPPLIED IN NORTHERN IRELAND

| | 1965 | 1973 | 1981 |
|-------------|------|------|------|
| % | % | % | % |
| Oil | 32 | 55 | 48 |
| Coal | 55 | 27 | 29 |
| Electricity | 10 | 15 | 20 |
| Gas | 3 | 3 | 3 |

conducted by Coopers & Lybrand. The Coopers study argues that information gained from the pilot development would be of considerable benefit to the planning and design of eventual lignite power generation projects.

If a decision were subsequently taken to go ahead with the project to build a lignite-fired power plant, then a new station on the Loch Neagh site would offer the greatest economic benefit. It would also be cheaper than the conversion of an existing power plant, besides offering considerable saving when compared to the use of coal, according to Coopers.

The Department of Economic Development stresses that the various options being considered are not necessarily direct alternatives. Thus a decision on the Kinsale pipeline could be taken quite independently of the decisions on lignite and coal. There is also a strong possibility that a final decision on using lignite will be delayed until the 1990s by which time the Government will have had time to evaluate a small-scale pilot project.

In the meantime, Mr Edwards and his colleagues at the NCB are keen to stress the importance of making an immediate decision on the conversion of the Kilroot plant. Mr Edwards estimates that the conversion could be completed within three years of the decision being taken. In the present climate there would be little danger of power shortages if Kilroot were pulled out of service within this time.

But any delay in the decision-making process increases the risk of power shortages if industry's demand recovers from today's rock-bottom levels.

The creation of a nearby market for 1 million tonnes of coal each year would also do much to ease the NCB's strained finances, with the obvious attractions to ministers.

The Department of Economic Development's discussion paper emphasises that Northern Ireland's energy problems cannot be considered in isolation from its wider economic wellbeing and that of the United Kingdom as a whole.

The paper also points to the obvious attractions of pushing as much of the burden of financing as possible on to the private sector. In the current political climate that makes Burnet's scheme a firm front runner, despite the uncertainty of the company's plans.

Financial notebook

Confusions round an obsession

Of all the orthodoxies now afflicting financial markets, perhaps the most obsessive is "crowding-out". It is widely held, particularly on Wall Street, that government borrowing, certainly at present levels, reduces the availability of capital for other investment, forces up interest rates, and therefore inhibits economic recovery.

But like all orthodoxies, crowding-out blinds the obsessed to much of what is really going on. Nobody would deny that, in extreme, the behaviour of private savings could be badly distorted by government funding requirements.

Nevertheless, the empirical evidence for crowding-out in present circumstances is inconclusive, and different ways of funding government reduce the risk further. It is even possible to argue without undue perversity that fiscal stimulation from government borrowing leads to "crowding-in".

One is entitled to be suspicious about crowding-out because its intellectual origins are less than impeccable and fully support well-worn maxims about defunct economists. The belief that a budget deficit would drain a finite pool of national savings was the British Treasury orthodoxy of the 1930s which so exercised Lord Keynes.

How the discredited orthodoxy of a discredited period could once again become respectable is an intriguing question.

Part of the answer is that the latter day partisans of crowding-out confuse the real economic effects of government deficits and spending with their inherent dislike of "big government". Allied to this political aspect of punk monetarism is the *a priori* assumption that the private sector is more efficient. The conviction that budget deficits cause inflation, and the understandable concern that inflation may not be defeated, add to the confusion.

A rhetorical riposte to this tangle of confusions and prejudices might be why should a given amount of private borrowing be less inflationary than the same amount of public borrowing if their impact on aggregate demand is identical? If there is no difference, presumably private funding can lead equally to crowding out.

But stripped of the confusions, the argument revolves,

as Keynes argued, around the behaviour of private investors. This, it must be said, is a blood-stained battleground. The effect of fiscal policy on private savings and the response of investors are murky areas. The complexity is illustrated by the recent behaviour of private savers. In Britain, the savings ratio actually rose while budget deficits were at their height in the late 1970s; since then they have fallen, despite lower deficits.

Nevertheless, a recent paper by two Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development economists concludes that where government debt is funded by bond issues "the demand for credit may be sufficiently interest sensitive, and many money holders sufficiently responsive to interest changes, for budget deficits to be financed without crowding out a substantial amount of private capital spending".

Indeed, the paper argues that instead "crowding in" could be the result. If fiscal policy increases the wealth of private money holders by stimulating the economy generally the consequences could be, with a given money stock, higher private demand for financial assets such as company debt and equity.

In practice, however, investors do not always respond with the speed or rationality that would produce such a result. Some might prefer, for instance, to hold equities even though the yield is lower than on government bonds. It is this mismatching which can result in a measure of crowding out and prompts the OECD authors to say: "This evidence suggests that there is only a partial crowding out in the short term."

One solution to the problem is for governments to use different funding methods. At the moment issuing medium-to-long-dated bonds does not always match the investors' preference, engendered by inflationary experience and expectations, for short-term assets. At this stage in the recovery it might be more appropriate for governments even to borrow from banks.

"Public Sector Deficits: Problems and Policy Implications" by Jean-Claude Chaurac and Robert Price, OECD, "Occasional Studies", June 1983.

Michael Prest

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 13th July 1983, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts, as indicated, of each of the Stocks listed below:

300 million 10½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1997
200 million 11½ per cent TREASURY STOCK, 2001-2004

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 13th July 1983 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 13th July 1983 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects *pari passu* with that stock and subject to the terms and conditions of the prospectus for that stock, save as to the particulars therein relating to the amount of the issue, the price payable, the method of issue and the first interest payment. Copies of the prospectuses for the Stocks listed above, dated 14th October 1977 and 18th May 1979 respectively may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London EC4M 9AA.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchanges for each other tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

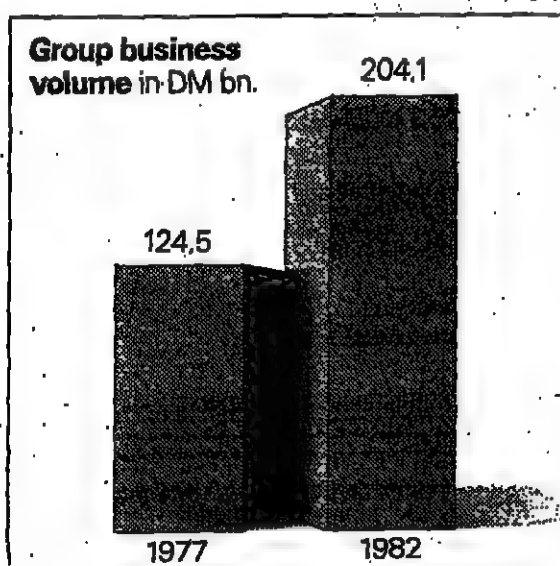
The Stocks are repayable at par, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below:

| Stock | Redemption date | Interest payment dates |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 1997 | 21st February 1997 | 21st February 21st August |
| 11½ per cent Treasury Stock, 2001-2004 | 19th March 2004, or at any time after 19th March 2001 subject to not less than three months' notice. | 19th March 19th September |

The further tranche of 11½ per cent Treasury Stock, 2001-2004 will rank for a full six months' interest on 19th September 1983. Dealings in the further tranche of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 1997 for settlement prior to 21st August 1983 will, in common with the existing Stock, be effected on an ex-dividend basis.

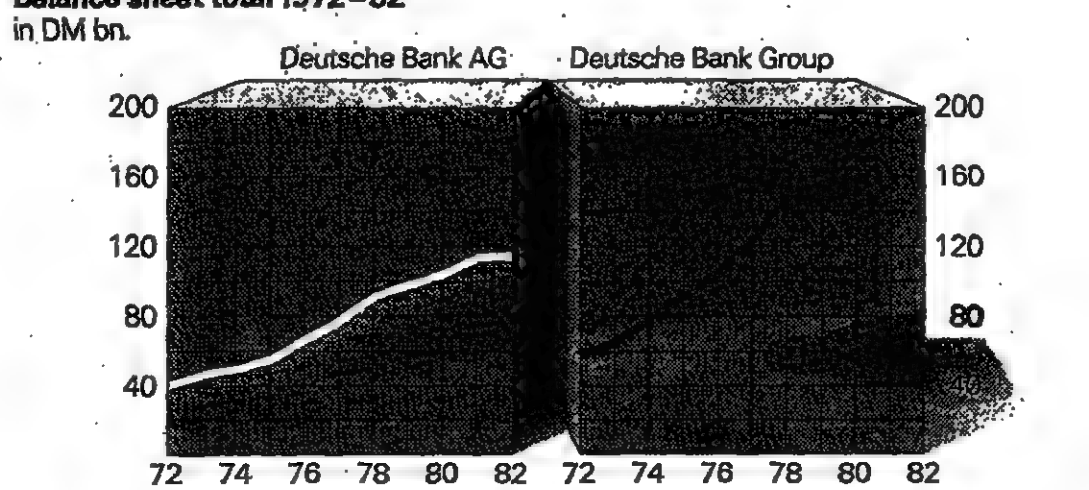
BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
13th July 1983

1982. A year's work.



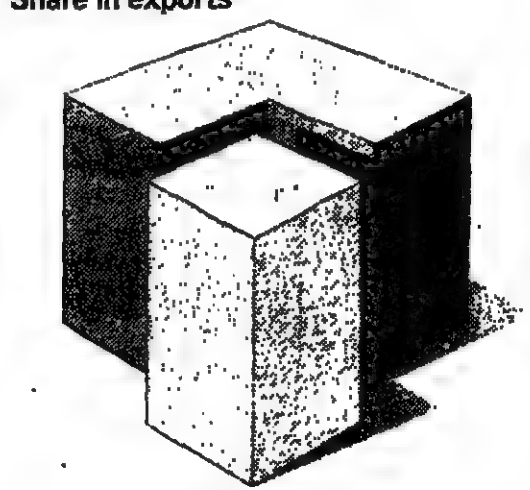
Group business volume exceeded DM 200 bn.

Balance sheet total 1972-82



Development of balance sheet total.

Share in exports



A quarter of Federal Germany's exports are settled with Deutsche Bank.

Business policy, overall development and result.

The 1982 financial year was characterized by a cyclically-induced weakness in demand for credit, a further increase in risks in national and international business as well as a marked decline in interest rates in the course of the year.

Group business policy was aimed primarily at strengthening earning power. Its objective was also to allow customers to benefit quickly and to the largest possible extent from the measures of monetary policy relaxation initiated by the Bundesbank and thus to promote positive effects for economic activity as a whole.

Through the capital increase in October, which brought us own funds of DM 497 m., we strengthened the bank's position and laid the foundation for full use to be made of future business opportunities in the Group.

In 1982, the bank's business volume increased by roughly DM 2 bn. to DM 204.1 bn. Group business volume rose to DM 204.1 bn.

International business.

In 1982 also, a large part of our international business served the financing of German foreign trade.

The most important project in the financing of German plant exports in 1982 was the supply of goods for the gas pipeline from Urengoy (West Siberia) to Western Europe.

In Eurocredit business, which we handle largely through our subsidiary in Luxembourg, we continued our cautious, earnings-oriented policy.

Foreign network continues to grow.

In May and June 1982, we opened representative offices in Los Angeles and Chicago.

After taking over the holding company Deutsche Credit Services, Inc., in Deerfield, Illinois (U.S.A.), we now have in Deutsche Credit Corporation a wholly-owned subsidiary specializing in industrial sales financing.

In Japan we opened a representative office in Nagoya, one of the country's important business centres, in February. In October we converted our representative office in Osaka into a branch.

In June we received authorization to open a representative office in Bahrain.

At the end of 1982 Deutsche Bank had 13 foreign branches and 9 wholly-owned subsidiaries abroad. Together with our holdings and representative offices, we have 83 bases in 54 countries.

Foreign subsidiary banks and financing companies.

Deutsche Bank (Asia Credit) Ltd., Singapore, engages primarily in international lending and in money and foreign exchange dealing. At the end of 1982, the bank's balance sheet total came to the equivalent of DM 2.1 bn.

Deutsche Bank (Canada), Toronto, successfully completed its first business year on 31.10.1982.

The bank operates as a Commercial Bank under the Canadian Bank Act in short and medium-term lending and deposits business as well as in the services sector.

Its balance sheet total came to Can. \$ 121.2 m. as at 31.12.1982, with total credit extended to customers of Can. \$ of 65.2 m.

As at balance sheet date 30.9.1982, the balance sheet total of Deutsche Bank Compagnie Financière Luxembourg S.A., Luxembourg, came to Lux. frs. 503 bn. (DM 24.9 bn.).

The emphasis in the bank's operations continues to be on lending. Total credit

extended as at balance sheet date was Lux. frs. 394 bn. (DM 19.5 bn.).

Deutsche Bank (Suisse) S.A., Geneva and Zurich, as a specialized institute in Switzerland, serves primarily international private customers in the fields of investment counselling, trust business and foreign exchange and precious metals dealing.

The bank's second business year has already closed with a positive result. Balance sheet total increased to the equivalent of DM 383 m. (previous year: DM 132 m. converted).

Atlantic Capital Corporation, our investment banking subsidiary in New York, participated this year too in a number of share and bond issues. Since 31.12.1982 Atlantic Capital Corporation has been a member of the New York Stock Exchange. Its balance sheet total at year's end came to US \$ 51.4 m.

Strong growth in Eurobonds.

In international issuing business we took advantage of the favourable state of the Eurocapital market to expand our business strongly. The bank lead-managed, managed or co-managed a total of 269 Eurobond issues; that was almost twice as many as in the previous year (139). The biggest single transaction to date on the Eurocapital market, a US \$ 750 m. bond issue for Canada, was lead-managed by our bank.

EBIC:

(European Banks International).

The exchange of views and experience with the six partner banks in EBIC was continued.

At the end of the year the two EBIC subsidiaries Banque Européenne de Crédit (BEC) and European Banking Company (EBC) were merged.

At European American Bank (EAB), New York, the balance sheet total rose to US \$ 8.3 bn.

European Asian Bank AG, Hamburg, again registered an impressive increase in lending to corporate customers in the Asian-Pacific region. The balance sheet total rose by 18% to DM 6.3 bn.

joint favourite with Vincent O'Brien's stable. The firm then bet 6-1 Stanerra, 7-1 Time Charter, and 10-1 Quilted. A recent introduction into the market is the french-trained filly, All Along, who comes in at 14-1.

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The Council intends to decentralise its services, therefore the duties, hours of work or location of this post may be subject to change.

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The old girl network

Ann Hills examines the growing number of clubs for women in management

"Men are used to old boy networks, to picking up the phone, making contacts. Women are very reluctant to do the same." That is the view of Irene Harris, founder of Network, an association of women in the professions, industry, commerce and the arts designed to promote the kind of interchange men take for granted. It is one of a growing band of women's groups, including Women in Media, Women in Banking, City Women's Network, and Zonta. They are hardly noticed by the media because meetings tend to be peripatetic. Women don't, after all, have formal clubs with exclusive entrances, bars and restaurants.

Yet their clubs do attain similar exclusiveness. The Women's Advertising Club of London may be discovered holding a discussion around a vast boardroom table. This is one of the "grannies", formed exactly 60 years ago by women in top positions. The story goes that they were embarrassed about paying for a signature sufficed long before the era of plastic money. Membership is still limited to a mere 50 women, under the presidency this year of Elizabeth Fallaw, director of Dorland Advertising.

Most of the networking associations have grown in the last five years in answer to increasing numbers of women feeling isolated in senior positions in specialist areas. A few, such as Women in Industry, flourished for a while, but without structures and regional interest, or a limited geographical brief (most seem to concentrate on London) they fell apart. Out of London, top career women still lack clubs and there are always problems of family commitments, or the tendency of women to become self-confessed workaholics. Both are time consuming - meetings can only be occasional. "I work all hours, even evenings, and don't have time for anything else," says Jean Denton, managing director of Heron Drive and female Executive of the Year in 1982.

She allows some time for networking. "I tend to join to find expertise in others and to make useful contacts. I've found talent in the Marketing Group of Great Britain (which isn't just for women) and Network (which is), on the understanding that you don't let a girlfriend down. What worries me about women's groups is the danger of being introverted and the assumption that they are justified because things have been easy for men. They have not. We are forming organizations to play the contact game, as men do with their clubs."

Irene Harris of Network points out that the tone of meetings is not particularly feminist. She stresses that it is a refreshing way to meet and to develop links. "Women don't tend to

keep friends from schooldays as men do. I have to tell members that it is acceptable to telephone other members listed in the directory - someone might want advice from a medical specialist, or suggestions on marketing from a top public relations officer. A phone call isn't asking a favour."

Membership (£35 per year) has led to useful developments through contacts - the case of an estate agent who discovered a member in a bank who could help finance the project. Lawyers in the association tend to be asked to work for other members, now totalling about 200.

Apart from the directory, newsletters and discount cards, Irene Harris arranges meetings with celebrities, speakers, and is planning the first trip abroad - to the Champagne district of France in September. Weekends to beauty farms are occasional excursions and more ambitious links are being built with associate members as far apart as Singapore and New York. But there is still no regional branch in Britain.

Who can join? The official guideline is two years experience at senior level in a company, but criteria for self-employed members, and others in the arts, are based on different personal achievements. "Everything we do has to be the best. Why should women go to tacky restaurants. Men don't resent spending money on themselves - why should women?" Irene says.

Zonta has different motives. An international body which began in

Buffalo, New York State in 1919, it has seven clubs in Britain with membership between 25 and 40. London II Club is one of the newest, like the others intended to encourage "high ethical standards in business and the professions" and to improve "the legal, political and professional status of women". Projects range from fund raising for disabled people, to helping East London schoolgirls obtain good jobs by visiting schools and through invitations to firms represented in Zonta. The clubs actively support the 300 Group, which is intended to raise the number of women in the House of Commons.

The National Organization for Women's Management Education (NOWME) wants women to aim for high qualifications, develop careers in management, help themselves to their potential. It provides information, training materials, hints on bursaries, all explained in an introductory leaflet.

Nickie Fonda of Brunel University, who has made a marked impact in encouraging women to succeed, especially in planning careers, regards networking as "invaluable, providing a chance to practise skills. Members of networking groups can become public speakers, find out about management training, how other companies work and who to contact within them". Networking for women is a highly practical activity, with precious little time spent lounging about or consuming part of the organizing career woman hasn't the time.

A short list of organizations of women in executive networks may be obtained by sending a SAE to Career Horizons, Room 137, The Times, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

MARKET PLACE

Philip Schofield's monthly column on job vacancies

The job market now appears to have entered a period of steady growth. The number of job vacancies has averaged 176,000 for the last 12 months, up from 160,000 in the year ending June - almost 9 per cent up on last year. In the spring months, growth was just over 4 per cent. As jobseekers handle only a third of all vacancies, the monthly total of jobs exceeds half a million.

Vacancies for management, professional and technical positions increased even more sharply. P.E.R.'s weekly job newspaper *Executive Post* says that 2,527 vacancies, an increase of 33 per cent on last year. Recruitment advertising volume in the seven

"quality" national newspapers was up by almost 14 per cent.

In a survey of 1,260 employers, Manpower found that job prospects are at their most favourable for four years. More than twice as many plan to take extra staff in the third quarter of 1983 as are expecting cuts. This is the highest level of net increase forecast since mid-1979.

The survey indicates that in manufacturing, the most buoyant areas are private building, electrical engineering, clothing and vehicle manufacturing. Service companies are particularly optimistic, especially in retailing and banking.

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South Bank Polytechnic is looking for an experienced administrator to head its administration as Secretary and Clerk - a job with plenty of challenge and interest.

The Polytechnic is a large organisation - more than 8,000 students and 2,000 staff - with a budget of more than £22 million a year, but it retains much of the friendly atmosphere of far smaller organisations.

The Secretary and Clerk is responsible for co-ordinating finance, legal, personnel, catering, historical and other services. Preliminary interviews will be held during August and September, to suit the convenience of applicants.

Details and application forms from the Staffing Officer, Polytechnic of the South Bank, Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA.

If you would like further background, either before or after obtaining the forms, please telephone Sara Evans, the present Secretary and Clerk, on 01-928 8868, ext. 2001.

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS LONDON OFFICER

Applications are invited for the post of London Officer to be stationed at A.U.T. Headquarters. The main duties of the post will be to provide assistance to local associations in university institutions in the London conurbation. Experience of work in a trade union or professional association or in the field of education is an essential qualification.

Salary scale £9,575-£14,125 plus London Allowance of £1,185 p.a. Where applicable, removal expenses will be met.

Further details from: General Secretary, Association of University Teachers, United Kingdom, 1 Pembroke Road, London W11 3JL. Tel: 01-221 4370. Closing date for receipt of applications 1 August 1983.

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To take responsibility for organising the sales of the extensive product range to industrial, scientific and laboratory outlets. Three appointments are to be made covering the following areas:

- United Kingdom
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Ideally, candidates - men and women, will be in the age group 27-35 with a degree in a technical discipline and with several years experience in selling or product management.

The importance of these key positions is reflected in the negotiable salary. All positions carry a car, pension scheme and other benefits appropriate to a substantial organisation, including relocation expenses.

Please send full career details to W. M. Stern, quoting Ref. JO256.

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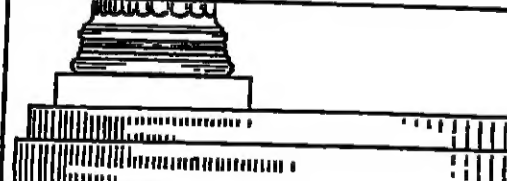
The Cabinet War Rooms complex which remains virtually as it was in May 1945, will be open to the public from early in 1984. The Curator will be responsible for day to day administration including management of staff and will be expected to initiate schemes to publicise this new museum.

Candidates must have a sound knowledge of twentieth century military history particularly the history of the second World War. They should normally have a degree, preferably with 1st or 2nd class honours, in modern history or a related discipline. Those without such qualifications will only be considered if they have other qualifications or experience of special value. Preference will be given to those with some knowledge of the history of the Cabinet War Rooms. Research and relevant administrative experience would be advantageous.

Salary £9,005-£11,465. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and application form (to be returned by 8 August 1983), write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1B, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 48551 (morning service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref. G/22382.

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As a result of a reorganisation of Careers' Districts the North Humberstone and Scunthorpe Districts are to be amalgamated to form a single District to be known as the North Humberstone and Scunthorpe District.

The order bringing about the amalgamation comes into operation on the 1st July 1983.

The new Careers' District extends over the whole of North Humberstone and the west of the County of North Lincolnshire. The new District is expected to be in the region of 2,800 square miles per year of which about 2,000 fall within the North Humberstone and Scunthorpe District. The County Council intend to hold a public meeting to discuss the amalgamation in the town of Scunthorpe in relation to the new District.

Applications are invited for this full-time post from Bursaries, Solicitors or legally qualified medical practitioners of not less than five years standing in their profession. Experience as a Career, Deputy Career or Assistant Career would be an advantage.

Applications should be sent to the Director of Administration, Humberstone County Council, County Hall, Bursary, North Humberstone, North Lincolnshire, to reach the County Hall by 21st July, 1983 and should give the names of two persons to act as referees.

There are no applications from relating to this post.

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Further enquiries may be offered after satisfactory completion of this advert. For further details and an application form write to: The Lord Chancellor's Department, Neville House, Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 01 211 7723. Closing date for receipt of application forms 15th July 1983.

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There is also a small number of Marine Barometers by Short and Nagel and Negretti and Zambra.

Sales will be by tender and you should apply for details, quoting Reference Dept. 7, 17 August 1983 to Ministry of Defence, Sales Support 65, Room 1175, 81 St. Pancras Road, Southwark, London SE1 8JF.

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Labour left battle to control NEC

Continued from page 1

vote for Mr Neil Kinnock with Mr Roy Hattersley as deputy leader. Voting at branches produced a return of more than 50 per cent, with Mr Kinnock winning 70 per cent of those votes.

Left strategists have switched their attention from the leadership issue now that Mr Kinnock appears home and dry to winning control of the NEC and are lobbying hard for the votes of unions such as the POU and the National Union of Railwaymen, which has moved significantly to the left.

The five trade unionists whose seats have been identified for attack by the left are Mr Golding, Mr Russell Tuck of the NUR, Mr David Williams, of the Confederation of Health Service union, Mr Roy Evans, of the steelworkers and Mr Denis Howell of the white-collar union, the Association of Professional Executive Clerical and Computer Staff.

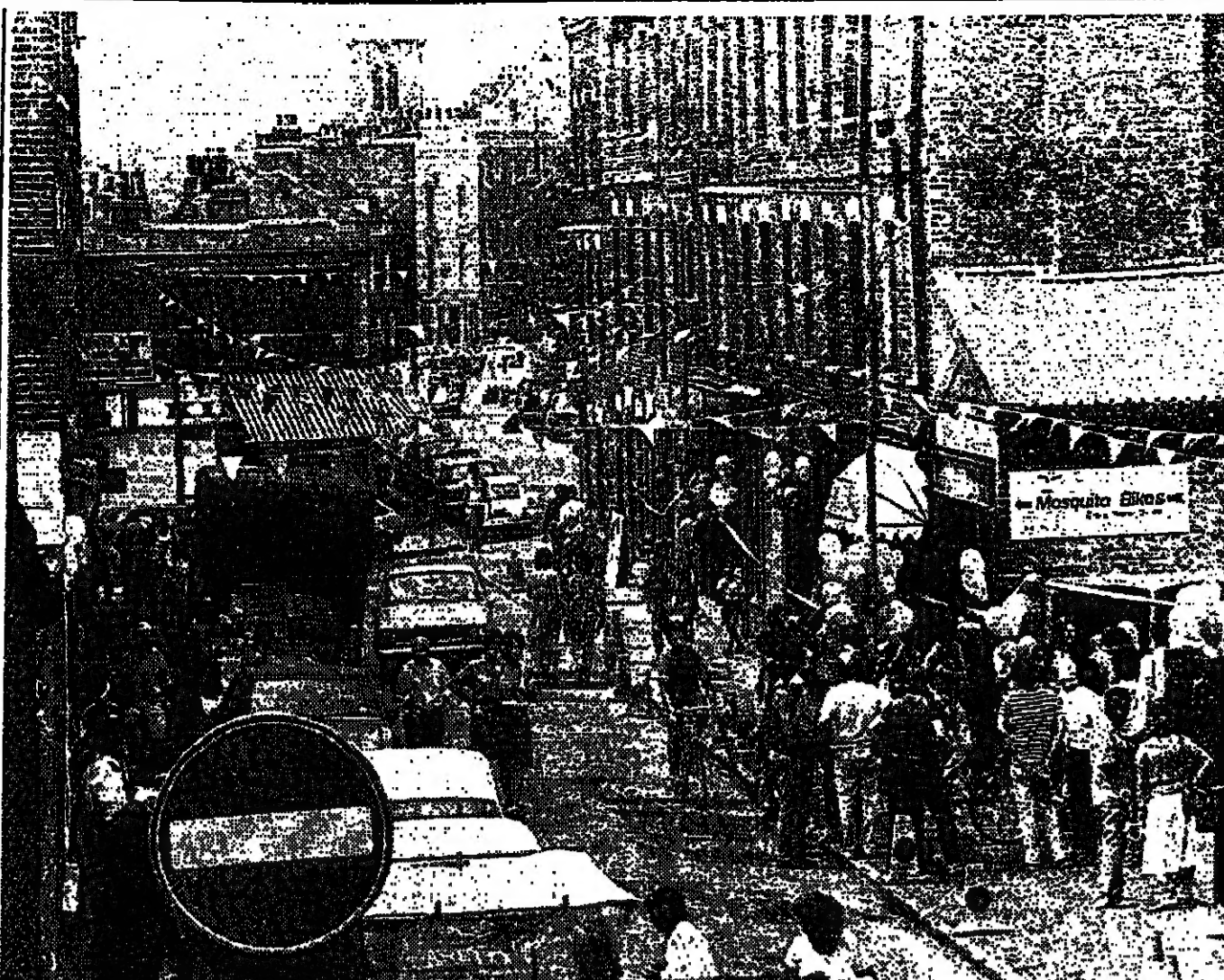
Mr Tuck and Mr Williams are retiring although under NUR practice their nominees will automatically be Mr Charles Turnock, the next most senior official in the union, who is more of a right winger than Mr Tuck.

Among the union nominees which the left are supporting are Mr Douglas Hoyle, from Mr Clive Jenkins, Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, Mr Charles Kelly from the construction workers' union and Miss Barbara Switzer, of the white-collar Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section.

Mr Kinnock's victory as leader was virtually assured earlier this week when Mr Frank Chapple's electricians' union, which has a 180,000 block vote, decided to abstain because it disagreed with the method of electing the party leader.

Mr Golding, the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, who has been the wheeler-dealer linkman on the NEC between the unions and the politicians, and the soft left and the moderates, said that he thought his departure would make little difference (our Political Correspondent writes).

But the view is based on an assumption that the hard-left fail to make inroads into the national executive at the conference, and that the moderate majority increases to give greater authority to Mr Kinnock's expected leadership.



Coops breathe new life into derelict district

The first row of shops and workshops in Britain run entirely by workers' cooperatives (above) was formally opened yesterday in the London district of Hackney.

The 10 businesses, employing about 40 people, have been set up in Bradbury Street which has been virtually derelict for the past five years. Rebuilding was carried out by Hackney Cooperative Developments to provide concentrated retail outlets for the expanding number of coops in the area.

HCD leased the buildings from Hackney Borough Council and developed them with grants totalling £190,000 from the inner-city partnership at the Department of the Environment and the Borough Council itself. Grants totalling £80,000 for the next phase, developing more shops, offices and workshops in the row, have also been approved.

Mr Marshall Colman, of HCD, said the project would breathe new life into a run-down area and create new business for the employee-controlled firms, most of which

have been in existence elsewhere for some time.

Only Bada's Blooms, a florist's, is in business for the first time. The partners are Mrs Betty Cooper and her daughter, Debbie (right). Both were employed in plant shops before and spent four years looking for premises. They finally decided to open in Bradbury Street as the rent of £35-a-week was affordable.

At Trojan Printing Services, where rents are higher, Ms Virginia Heywood said the development would improve the image of coops and help them be taken seriously. Coops being together, she said, would increase business and allow problems to be sorted out together. "For me, being in a coop means I have a voice in decisions. In private business, I'd just be making a machine all day", she said.

Rents from the coops will go back to Hackney Cooperative Developments. In part, they will go into a "revolving loan fund" to provide small loans to cooperatives with formalities kept to a minimum.



Landmine kills four UDR men in convoy

Continued from page one

was reduced to a tangled wreckage on the edge of a 40 ft wide by 15 ft deep crater.

Telephone cables were destroyed, putting 1700 phones in the rural area out of order.

One of the soldiers died as he was being airlifted to hospital but the others were killed instantly.

Mr Noel Brown, assistant divisional fire officer, who was at the scene within minutes said: "There was just a huge crater and the vehicle was well alight with three bodies inside. My feeling was one of revulsion."

The Provisional IRA hiding in hills 400 yds away detonated the bomb by a command wire later discovered by security forces who carried out a huge search after sealing off the area.

The attack brings to six the number of UDR men killed this year and is the highest toll suffered by the regiment since 1980, when three men were killed in a similar explosion in Co. Down.

Cardinal Tomas O'Flaich, Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, said that it was a black day and that no cause could justify a single killing.

As politicians condemned the attack, it was Unionists who proclaimed that the incident provided a great argument for bringing back the rope. The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that massacre demonstrated that the innocent lost their lives but the guilty had their lives preserved.

The Rev William McCrea, Democratic Unionist MP for Mid-Ulster said that unless capital punishment was restored Northern Ireland would see nothing but more coffins. "If any man votes against capital punishment he will have the blood of the innocents on his hands", he said.

In South Armagh, police were investigating the double murder of two men found in an abandoned car three miles from Crossmaglen. The men, named locally as Mr Patrick Mackin and Mr Eamon McMahon, both in their thirties and from the area, were last seen alive in Dundalk, Co. Louth, on Tuesday night. It was several hours before police moved in as they feared the vehicle had been booby trapped.

The men were not connected with the security forces and no organization claimed responsibility for the killings.

Frank silence for the great debate

As it always did in the old days, capital punishment brought out the crowds yesterday.

The back benches filled up well in advance of the start. The public galleries were full. In the street outside, a large queue waited in hope of admittance. Figures from the House of Lords itself used by some Prime Ministers as a form of capital punishment, filled the Peers' Gallery. The vast form of Lord Soames, for example, was draped over the railing. The only slightly less vast form of his son, Nicholas, a new MP, was draped over a back bench somewhere below. It was a reminder, for good or ill, on a day when death was the subject, of life's astonishing capacity to renew itself.

Scottish question time rapped to a close. It was time for the great debate. The new Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, rose and pronounced the words which bring terror to the most hardened of MPs: "Speeches must be brief, very brief." No fewer than 60 members had indicated their wish to take part in the debate. He said. He made it clear that some would be disappointed. "I ask them not to come to the Chair to assess their chances," he said. These are the traditional words spoken by a Speaker when he sentences men and women to silence in this place. How many of them were innocent? (Very few, actually.)

In fact, the Speaker's words momentarily drew attention to an even more pressing problem: the unusually large number of Conservative members who wanted to avoid speaking in this debate at all costs. These were the ones who had secured Conservative candidacies by coming out in favour of capital punishment, but who had since been apostate prison governors, and Mr James Prior - in short, by the entire howling mob that moderate opinion forms itself into on these occasions.

For these wretched members, there was no refuge during the debate, except the loo. They could always plead that a lock proved faulty at the time of the crucial vote. One thing was certain: they could not say that they had to be

away on constituency business at the time. In many Conservative associations, capital punishment is regarded as the only constituency business worth their member's attention.

A goodly proportion of Tory backbenchers, then, sat through the debate in complete misery - hoping for a speech which would prove that one could be both for capital punishment and acceptable in polite society: acceptable in both the constituency committee room and the London drawing room. No such speech ever came.

Sir Edward Gardner, the member for Fylde, who moved the main motion, did not seem to have the answer to this social issue. His speech putting the case for capital punishment was respectable, but stolid.

In keeping with all the canons of common sense, he refused to base his case on statistics. But this meant that his case could be easily mocked and "rebutted" by nimble minds.

As the Home Secretary is expected to do in capital punishment debates, Mr Leon Brittan summed up the case for and against. He then came out in favour of death for terrorists - amid Labour hysteria. For the Opposition front bench, Mr Roy Hattersley kept on puffing out his cheeks and saying how totally, utterly, completely, unequivocally opposed to capital punishment he was - as if he were taking his career in his hands by doing so. His speech was a huge success with his party.

But a more effective speech for the anti-banggers came from Mr Edward Heath, who is serving a life sentence below the gangway. He mentioned the large number of mistaken convictions for murder in recent years. Then he said he understood some new Tory member had said he would be prepared to carry out an execution if needed. "Is he prepared to be hanged by mistake?" he asked. Later research revealed this member to be a Mr Peter Bruinvels, of Leicester East. But he remained in anonymous silence at Mr Heath's question.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, attends a reception at Buckingham Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard, 2.30.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends a service at Chislehurst Church to mark the eightieth anniversary of its foundation, 3.

The Duke of Kent takes the salute at the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court, 7.20.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, President of the Royal Academy of Music, presents awards at the Academy's annual prizegiving, NW1, 2.25.

The Duke of Gloucester presides at the annual general meeting of the Cancer Research Campaign at St James's Palace, 2.30, and accompanied by the Duchess, attends the National Trust's Fete Champetre at Claremont, Esher, Surrey, 8.

Princess Alexandra visits the Isle of Man to open the new breakwater pier at Douglas Harbour 12, and opens Sulby Reservoir, 3.

New exhibitions

New paintings by John Connolly: large carbonum prints by Michael Heidegger, ceramic sculpture by Larry Morgridge, Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until Aug 10).

Illustrative Images: Prints and drawings by artists from London's Thumb Gallery, at Collins Gallery, 22 Richmond Street, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4, closed next Monday (until July 30).

Exhibitions in progress

History of Warrington bridges and transport, Warrington Museum, Old Street; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5 (until Aug 20).

John Lavery's early career 1880-95, Glasgow Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvingrove; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until July 24).

Paintings and drawings by Jack Knox, Fruitmarket Gallery, Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (until Aug 6).

Edinburgh Group exhibition: paintings, drawings, ceramics, embroideries and books, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until July 30).

Drawings and sculpture by John Doubleday, and drawings and engravings by Della Chapman; Halesworth Gallery, Steple End, Halesworth; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 3 to 6 (until July 22).

Talks, lectures

Rude discussion on graffiti, by Nigel Ross, The Clarendon Press Centre, Walton Street, Oxford, 8.

Music

Concert by Landini Consort, Chapter House, York Minster, 8.

Band concert, Sea Terminal, Douglas, Isle of Man, 8.

Recital by Angela Tunstall (soprano) and Adrian Hobbs (piano), St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, 1.10.

Concert by Wheatshafn Chorus, Doncaster Parish Church, 7.30.

Piano recital Richard Stalker, Peterborough Cathedral, 7.30.

Guitar recital by Juan Martin, 6.30; concert by English Sinfonia, Nigel Kennedy (violin), Thaxted Parish Church, Essex, 8.30.

Concert by Alberni String Quartet, Blythburgh Church, Suffolk, 8.

General

Royal Tournament, Warwick Road, Earl's Court, SW5, 2.30 and 7.30.

The Times British Schools Chess Tournament finals, St Ermin's Hotel, Caxton Street, SW1, 10.30 to 3.30.

Lincoln Antiques Fair, County Assembly Rooms, Balguley, Lincoln, 2 to 8 today, 11 to 6 tomorrow, 11 to 5 Saturday.

Heat and pets

The RSPCA has issued an urgent appeal to pet owners to safeguard their animals during hot weather. Confining a dog in a stationary car can lead to its extreme distress and death in a short time.

Dogs should be exercised in the early morning or in the evening, not in the heat of the day. If an animal must be outside provide plenty of shade and fresh water. Violent thunderstorms cause fear and often panic in some animals. A dark corner under the stairs or in a cupboard can be a sanctuary.

New books - paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
A Boy's Own Story, by Edmund White (Penguin, £2.50)
An English Madman, by Paul Bailey (Fontana, £1.50)
County Library - a new series: A Poacher's Tale, by Fred Speckman; Adventures of an Artisan Hunter, by D. Brian Plummer; Early to Rise, by Hugh Barrett; The Shore Shooter, by Alan Savory (Boydell & Brewer, £4.45 each)
A Samuel Beckett Reader, edited by John Golder (Penguin, £2.50)
Development in British Politics, edited by Henry Drucker (Macmillan, £3.50)
Lucian, by Christopher Robinson (Duckworth, £5.95)
Ossip Mandelstam, selected poems translated by David McDuff (Writers & Readers, £2.95)
What is Dance? edited by Roger Copeland and Marshall Cohen (Oxford, £9.95)
Who Dares Wins, revised for the Falklands, by Tony Garaghty (Fontana, £2.50) PH

National Day

The opening shots in the French Revolution of 1789 are commemorated today as France celebrates its National Day. After pillaging the armoury at Les Invalides, a small, angry mob descended on the Bastille which was stormed and subsequently dismantled by the revolutionary government. The vestiges of revolutionary spirit found expression several times during later centuries, and most recently in the 1981 election of the Socialist Government of M Francois Mitterrand, which presides over a country of rich diversity now preoccupied by economic problems.

Anniversaries

Birthe Johannes Muller, physiologist, Koblenz, 1801; James McNeill Whistler, painter, Lowell, Massachusetts, 1834; Emmeline Pankhurst, suffragette, Manchester, 1858; Maxime de Stael, writer, died in Paris, 1817.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Finance Bill, remaining stages.
Lords (3): Lotteries (Amendment) Bill, second reading; Appropriation (No 2) (Northern Ireland) Order. Debate on experiments on living animals.

The pound

| | Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | Buy | Sell |
| Australia \$ | 1.84 | 1.75 |
| Austria Sch | 28.95 | 27.40 |
| Belgium Fr | 82.25 | 78.25 |
| Canada \$ | 1.94 | 1.86 |
| Denmark Kr | 14.75 | 14.05 |
| Finland Mk | 8.92 | 8.42 |
| France Fr | 12.26 | 11.76 |
| Germany DM | 4.10 | 3.90 |
| Greece Dr | 136.00 | 126.00 |
| Durley | 11.57 | 10.72 |
| Spain Ps | 1.30 | 1.22 |
| Italy Lire | 2425.00 | 2305.00 |
| Japan Yen | 368.00 | 368.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.59 | 4.37 |
| Norway Kr | 11.62 | 11.07 |
| Portugal Esc | 185.00 | 174.00 |
| South Africa Rd | 2.11 | 1.96 |
| Ireland Ps | 227.00 | 216.00 |
| Sweden Kr | 12.23 | 11.63 |
| Switzerland Fr | 3.36 | 3.19 |
| USA \$ | 1.57 | 1.52 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 142.00 | 134.00 |

Rates for small denominated bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 333.9.
London: The FT Index closed down 5.2 at 676.9.

Roads

London and South-East M4: Lane closure between junctions 2 (Brentford) and 3 (Cranford). Royal Tournament, Earls Court, affecting one-way system. A307: Petersham Road, Richmond, closed near Star and Garter Hill, diversions, avoid Richmond Bridge at peak times.
Midlands and East Angles: A1: One carriageway shared on Stag Lane Hill near Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. A452: Fieldgate Lane, Kenilworth, closed to through traffic. M6: Northbound entry slip road closed at junction 2 (M69 and Coventry East); M69/M6 junction not affected.
North: Great Yorkshire Show, Hookstone Oval, Harrogate extra traffic on A61, A658 and A661. British Open Golf, Royal Birkdale, Southport: Heavy traffic on A570 and A565. M6: Resurficing northbound between junctions 32 and 33 (M55 turn off to Lancaster South); diversions possible.

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures at junction 32 (Cardiff). M5: Northbound carriageway shared between junctions 3 (M50 junction) and 9 (A58 junction) for three miles. A425: Temporary lights at Fosseway north of Northleach.
Scotland: A72: Single lane only west of Peebles, Border. A8: Haymarket, Edinburgh, road narrowed. A52: Resurficing on Great Western Road, Glasgow, between Leicester Avenue and Anniesland Bridge.

Information supplied by the AA.

Pollen forecast

| | Pollen count | Peak times |
|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Aberdeen | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Belfast | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Birmingham | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Bristol | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Cardiff | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Edinburgh | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Glasgow | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| London | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Manchester | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Newcastle | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Nottingham | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Sheffield | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Sunderland | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Swansea | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Warrington | high | 3 to 6 pm |
| Wolverhampton | high | 3 to 6 pm |

The pollen count for London issued by the Astoria Research Council at 10 am yesterday. All figures for today's recording are British Telecom's Weatherline 01-246 881, which is updated each morning at 10.30.

Weather forecast

An anticyclone will persist over England and Wales. A trough of low pressure will move SE across S Scotland and N Ireland.

6 am to midnight

London, Midlands, Central N, SE, E England, East Angles: Fog patches soon clearing, sunny periods, isolated thunder showers, wind variable, light; max 24 to 27C (75 to 81F).
Central S, SW England, Channel Islands, Wales: Sunny periods, isolated showers, wind variable, light; max 23 to 26C (73 to 79F).
Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Border, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, NW Ireland: Mist, fog patches clearing, becoming cloudy, rain in places, brighter, mainly dry intervals, light or moderate; max 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).
NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, dry and W, moderate; max 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Mostly dry, some rain over Scotland. Becoming somewhat cooler.
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind variable, light; sea smooth. English Channel (E), St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind variable, light; sea smooth.

Sun rises: 4.58am
Sun sets: 8.15pm
Moon rises: 5.56pm
Moon sets: 11.53am
Full Quarter July 17.

Lighting-up time

London 6.43 pm to 4.30 am
Edinburgh 10.21 pm to 4.40 am
Cardiff 10.21 pm to 4.40 am
Penzance 9.58 pm to 4.58 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; t, fair; r, rain; s, sun.
Belfast: 22.7C
Birmingham: 22.4C
Bristol: 22.7C
Cardiff: 22.7C
Edinburgh: 22.7C
Glasgow: 22.7C
London: 22.7C
Manchester: 22.7C
Newcastle: 22.7C
Nottingham: 22.7C
Sheffield: 22.7C
Sunderland: 22.7C
Swansea: 22.7C
Warrington: 22.7C
Wolverhampton: 22.7C

Highest and lowest

Highest day temp: Liphook, Hants 32C (90F); lowest day temp: Lough Linn 12C (54F); highest night temp: Newcastle 10.7C (51.3F); lowest night temp: Newcastle 5.0C (41F); sunrise: 4.58am; sunset: 8.15pm.

London

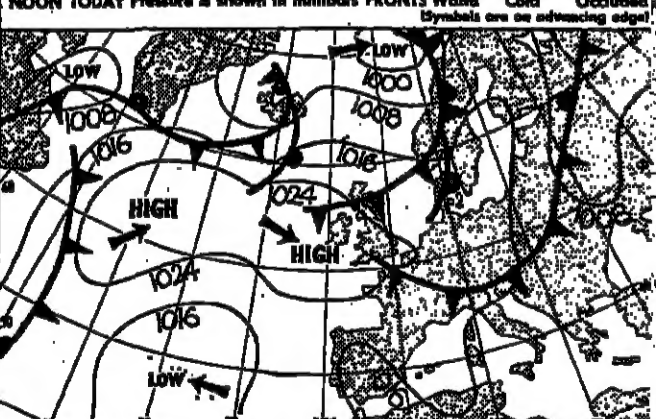
Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 31C (88F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 20C (68F); humidity: 6 pm, 65 per cent; rain: 5.4 to 6 pm, 0.2 mm; sun: 2.4 to 6 pm, 12.0 hrs; bar: mean sea level, 6 mm, 1027.2; wind: S.W. 10 to 25 mph; 25-35 mph.

Around Britain

| | Sun | Rain | Max | Min |
|---------------|------|------|-----|-----|
| St Andrews | 1.3 | 11 | 18 | 8 |
| Cardiff | 0.8 | 17 | 23 | 10 |
| Edinburgh | 0.8 | 17 | 23 | 10 |
| Glasgow | 1.1 | 18 | 24 | 11 |
| London | 7.0 | 20 | 28 | 15 |
| Manchester | 1.7 | 22 | 27 | 16 |
| Newcastle | 5.2 | 19 | 26 | 15 |
| Nottingham | 7.4 | 22 | 27 | 16 |
| Sheffield | 13.5 | 22 | 27 | 16 |
| Sunderland | 12.7 | 22 | 27 | 16 |
| Swansea | 12.4 | 22 | 27 | 16 |
| Warrington | 12.5 | 22 | 27 | 16 |
| Wolverhampton | 10.5 | 21 | 26 | 15 |
| Belfast | 1.3 | 18 | 24 | 11 |
| Birmingham | 2.9 | 24 | 28 | 15 |
| Bristol | 2.9 | 24 | 28 | 15 |
| Cardiff | 3.0 | 24 | 28 | 15 |
| Edinburgh | 3.0 | 24 | 28 | 15 |
| Glasgow | 3.0 | 24 | 28 | 15 |

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NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars



High tides

| | AM | HT | PM | HT |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| London Bridge | 5.28 | 7.54 | 5.43 | 7.71 |
| Aberdeen | 1.08 | 1.21 | 1.23 | 1.36 |
| Belfast | 1.23 | 1.36 | 1.38 | 1.51 |
| Birmingham | 10.50 | 11.03 | 11.05 | 11.18 |
| Cardiff | 9.27 | 9.52 | 10.11 | 10.36 |
| Edinburgh | 9.27 | 9.52 | 10.11 | 10.36 |
| Glasgow | 9.27 | 9.52 | 10.11 | 10.36 |
| Harwich | 1.39 | 1.50 | 1.52 | 1.65 |
| Highland | 1.39 | 1.50 | 1.52 | 1.65 |
| London | 5.28 | 7.54 | 5.43 | 7.71 |
| Manchester | 9.47 | 10.12 | 10.27 | 10.42 |
| Newcastle | 9.47 | 10.12 | 10.27 | 10.42 |
| Nottingham | 1.07 | 1.23 | 1.25 | 1.41 |
| Sheffield | 1.07 | 1.23 | 1.25 | 1.41 |
| Sunderland | 1.07 | 1.23 | 1.25 | 1.41 |
| Swansea | 10.58 | 11.11 | 11.13 | 11.26 |
| Warrington | 10.58 | 11.11 | 11.13 | 11.26 |
| Wolverhampton | 10.58 | 11.11 | 11.13 | 11.26 |
| Wrexham | 10.58 | 11.11 | 11.13 | 11.26 |

6 am to 6 pm: b-b, blue sky and cloud; c-cloudy; o-overcast; l-light; d-drizzle; h-heavy rain; m-mist; f-fog; s-snow; w-wind; v-virga; p-petals; t-tornado; r-rain; s-sun; c-clear; b-b, blue sky and cloud; c-cloudy; o-overcast; l-light; d-drizzle; h-heavy rain; m-mist; f-fog; s-snow; w-wind; v-virga; p-petals; t-tornado; r-rain; s-sun; c-clear; b-b, blue sky and cloud